

year been raised to 26, continued of the same opinion, which he grounded upon the consideration that it ought to be composed of a majority of the representation. In every session they were often obliged to have a call of the house on certain questions of the first consequence; now by continuing the quorum at 26 that inconvenience might, in a great measure, be avoided, as at all events, by means of a quorum of 26 the majority of the people would, by their representatives, concur in all questions of more or less importance. Notwithstanding the veneration he entertained for the customs of the mother-country, Mr. B. considered the precedent adduced by Mr. Taschereau, as not at all applicable here, because there, the number who possess the right of voting is by no means proportioned to the population, while here, the right of voting is extended to almost the whole; and, in this respect, we are more fortunate than they are in England. He concluded with observing, that no change had been made in the number of representatives in Lower Canada, notwithstanding the considerable augmentation of the population; and that Upper Canada had been more favoured in that respect.

Mr. Taschereau in reply said they ought rather to follow the example of those who had had so much political experience, than lose themselves and their time, in theoretical arguments. He denied that any mischief had arisen from a quorum of 15, or if it had, it had been through inadvertence, and would equally have arisen in a quorum of 26. *He was not however, attached to 15, and should vote for a quorum of 19.*

Mr. Cuvillier hoped the hon. member would allow him to consider him as the organ of the executive. What was it a time when we were about to discuss our civil list; the important question of the union; the state of our resources; the increase of our representation; was it at such a time that a proposition was to be made to reduce the quorum? Look but at the proceedings of the British parliament that bore upon this country. We shall find that *it was in a quorum of forty only, that the fur-trade bill was passed; a bill which has inflicted such an injury on this province: we shall find that the union-bill was proposed at a time when the house was obliged to adjourn for want of a quorum.* It is ever towards the end of a session, when the number of members attending is very small, that every injurious measure is accomplished; when any thing is contrived against the colonies, it is always masked, in some way or other, and manœuvred so as to be brought forward towards the conclusion of a session. He hoped that the house would not, by adopting this motion, expose itself to the imputation of being without character or consistency. This attempt was only the first of many that would follow; should it not, on this occasion, exhibit firmness and constancy.