

dent House, and, therefore, their deliberations should not be checked by outside influence. He presumed that the fact of the message being sent down at the very time when they were discussing the same subject, was a mere coincidence, but it should not be allowed to influence them in the least, and prevent them from treating the subject before them as an independent deliberative body. Otherwise their sitting there would be useless. If at this time they did not assert their right to deliberate upon the affairs of the Church without any possible interference with any other co-ordinate branch of the Church, they could not be true to themselves and the Church. (Cheers.)

Mr. Campbell rose to a point of order. There was a point of order before the chair, and there could be no discussion on it.

The Prolocutor said it had been an undoubted fact that, generally speaking, they had not allowed a message from the Upper House to interrupt the debate. But he should have to decide that the subject of the message being the very identical subject on which the House was engaged, it was due to the House of Bishops to allow their message to be considered before they proceeded further in this debate. (Cries of "No, no" and "Appeal.")

Mr. Gamble said he had not desired to adjourn the debate, but simply to appoint a committee to hold a conference with the House of Bishops and then proceed with the debate. A Conference with the two Houses was only asked when there was a difference of opinion between them, but in this case he believed they were in perfect harmony. However, they having desired the conference, he considered it should be granted at once.

Mr. Huntingdon appealed from the decision of the chair on the point of order.

Rev. Dr. Balch asked the Prolocutor to explain to the House what would be the effect of his decision. Would it stop the discussion before the House, or merely suspend it for the purpose of appointing a committee in accordance with the request of the Bishops.

Dean Hellmuth seconded the motion. It was a very remarkable coincidence that they should receive a message from the Upper House on the same subject as that before the House. It placed both Houses in a very delicate position. It might be interpreted by the outside world as an attempt to interfere with the Lower House. It should be distinctly understood that this House was a perfectly independent House. (Hear.) The Upper House had the power of vetoing any measure passed by this House, and, therefore, if anything passed by this House was objectionable to their Lordships, they had the power to correct it. Under any and all circumstances, he trusted that they should not be interfered with, but that they would be allowed to proceed with the discussion.