

and vote openly, but when they considered the weakness of some, and the pressing necessities of others—the strong inducements held out in the shape of the offer of relief for, perhaps, starving wives and children, they could not but admit the desirability of such a protection as the ballot could afford. They had a duty to provide for the weakness of humanity under such circumstances; and as the mother country, England—and he was glad to regard her in that relationship—(Hear, hear.)—had not thought it improper or derogatory to moral principle or manhood, to adopt the ballot, Canada need not be ashamed to copy her in this matter. He believed secret voting would be accepted as a boon and a protection to many often placed in a position of helplessness. It was the tempter that deserved the chief punishment and not the poor man. (Hear, hear.) Every one must admit that by this bill the Government was not striving to get more power over the people, or even to retain that previously possessed, for if this had been their object, they would have let the law stand as it was. It was felt by them all that the men now in power, when they had the opportunity, must stand true to their professions, of many years, out of office. (Hear, hear.) Though the Senate had a right to scrutinise this measure, and suggest improvements, he thought that when they considered it affected only the Commons, it behoved this House not to take strong ground in the matter, but while considering the principle of the bill, leave to the Commons the work of settling its details as well as its important provisions. He hoped the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bellerose) who had a notice of motion on the paper, touching the pecuniary qualification of candidates, would withdraw it, as it was contrary to the spirit of the measure. He contended this qualification should not be based on money, which could not give intellect or other qualifications requisite to a good representative, and also that it would be unjust as well as unwise to shut out of public life young men of character and promise simply because they did not own a couple of thousand dollars. (The hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid cheers.)

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said he did not at all reproach the Government for not bringing this bill forward at an earlier period of the session, for he knew the difficulty of Governments in this respect. Nor should he raise the least objection to the hon. gentleman going on with his bill, though

not printed. With reference to the bill itself, he apprehended it was unnecessary for his hon. friend to press his views upon it in the manner witnessed. The bill was very much the same bill the late Government brought forward, with some exceptions, which might recommend themselves to some members, and some of which he himself approved of, individually. He thought that in the bill of the late Government different election days for the whole Dominion were contemplated, though the elections were to be simultaneous in one Province. He concurred in the view that it was desirable that there should be but one day and the same day, as far as possible. The hon. gentleman took great credit for having, in advance of the bill, adopted this principle in the recent elections, but he made no reference to the complaint that this very principle was departed from as regards Nova Scotia, the elections for which were postponed till those in the western part of the Dominion were decided. Gentlemen on his side of the House complained that this delay was intentional, designed to prejudice the chances of their party in Nova Scotia, by means of the results of the elections further west. In this instance, at any rate, the Government did not observe the principle which the hon. gentleman glorified them on having adopted in advance of this legislation. (Hear, hear.) They brought the results of the elections here to bear on those in Nova Scotia.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER—It was not needed.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—That was another matter; but the Government was entitled to no credit in this respect. He thought the fixing of one day over the Dominion for elections would prove of great advantage, by shortening the period of excitement, saving time and avoiding the evils hitherto connected with delay. As to the ballot, he could not approve of that mode of choosing candidates, but would rather preserve the present ancient method. (Hear, hear.) He did not think there was the same occasion for the ballot here as in the old country, or that there was undue influence brought to bear by persons of large estates or large capital, upon the electors. He believed men here voted as they pleased, as a general rule. The exceptions, as in some cases of pressure by large manufactories, were few. Nor did he think the experience of New Brunswick went at all to show there was less expenditure on the elections by ballot than under the open system. He was informed by gentlemen from that Province