

to any other political body. I believe that the principles I have advocated in the past and intend to advocate in the future, are principles which will commend themselves to the judgment of the reformers of Upper Canada. I am willing at the proper time to carry that opinion to the polls, where it will be decided in the only legitimate way in which their judgment can be expressed. I do not object to the mode in which you have assembled here; but I apprehend that it cannot be said that every reform constituency in the country is fairly and proportionately represented here, and I apprehend that the question as to the policy adopted by my colleagues and myself will be decided by a different body from that which is assembled before us tonight. (Cheers.) Now, as you sent for us to give you information, I have only to say that we are prepared to deny the resolution which is now in your hands. (Cheers and counter-cheers.) We deny that coalitions are immoral, or that they are fairly open to the other charges that are made against them in that resolution. We are prepared to assert that a coalition of the political parties of this country was absolutely necessary for the purpose of securing to the people the greatest boon that has ever been conferred upon the country, for without coalition you would never have had that constitution which will come into operation on the 1st of July. I was proud, as one of the humble architects of that constitution, to hear the eulogiums passed upon it, and upon Mr. Brown, by this assemblage, and I agree with you there. But when you go further and say in your resolutions that a coalition is a most immoral combination, you pronounce upon your friend Mr. Brown the greatest condemnation ever passed upon any man. (Cheers.) It was he of all others who gave us this coalition which framed the constitution which is so soon to come into effect. At the time when the Government was defeated, prior to the formation of the coal-

tion, I, as an humble member of the Reform party, was invited to go into the cabinet, with two friends from the Reform party. It was then proposed that there should be a coalition. One party had tried to carry on the government and had failed, and the other party had also tried and failed. There was, in fact, as had been said, a dead lock in the legislature. The general elections were just over, and it was said that there was no object in appealing again to the country, for neither party could say that another election would materially change the position. An appeal was then made to moderate men on both sides of the house to join together to prevent this deadlock in the legislative affairs of the Province. I said to Sir Etienne Tache, the Premier, that I believed a coalition was the only possible release from the difficulty, but I added, "If you ask me to join you you must make it a real coalition—you must allow the liberals from Lower Canada to join you in the government, and if that be done, and good measures are proposed, I shall be happy to enter into such a government." Sir Etienne Tache told me that in Lower Canada his party were in a majority, that the *rouges* were demagogues, annexationists, infidels, and what not, that it was in Upper Canada the difficulty existed, and there it was that a coalition was necessary. Well, sir, although that proposition was very flattering to me, a young member of the party, who had not been long in Parliament, I felt it my duty to decline the offer. I refused to enter the government, but what did we find immediately afterwards? We found in a few days our friend Mr. Brown, who had voted against the government, coming down to the house and declaring that he was ready to enter into a Coalition with those gentlemen—(cheers)—or to support such a government as had just been condemned by the House. That declaration, you must well remember, took the whole country by