

their increase, why did we not hear of their advancement immediately after the Governor's proclamation in 1852, which was opposition from a higher source than any offered in this House? I must say that I believe the reason of the increase of Orange Lodges, is the encouragement which they have received from the head of the Government in the Colony.

Hon COL. SECRETARY—To whom does the hon member allude, by the expression, "head of the Government in the Colony?"

Hon Mr WHELAN—My language is not very unintelligible; the "head of the Government" is not the hon Col. Secretary. I say Orangeism owes its increase in this Colony, to the encouragement given it in high places. I cannot say I am sorry that it has progressed so far as to want an act of incorporation. The other Colonies have no such Act on their statute Books. The British Government has set the decided mark of its disapprobation upon the Orange Institution, and all similar secret societies. Is it then for a moment to be supposed, that if the Bill prayed for be passed, and go home to the Duke of Newcastle—the Colonial Minister, who accompanied His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in his visit to these Colonies, and discountenanced the proceedings of the Orangemen in Canada—will not give it a rebuff, such a rebuff as will be gratifying to my friends and myself? This application is only to give opportunity to favor and encourage religious strife for a certain purpose. Where Roman Catholics are nearly one half of the population, it is very unbecoming, to say the least, for any Government, or any individual connected with it—who should be patterns of morality—to uphold an institution of the kind. They should feel it to be their duty to conciliate the Roman Catholics of this Island; but let them go on. I feel assured they will meet with such a rebuff from the authorities at Home, as will check them in their career.

Mr BRECKEN—I have listened very patiently to the debate, Mr. Speaker, and regret that so much ill feeling has arisen on this subject. I have not uttered or written a word to hurt the feelings of any of my Roman Catholic fellow-subjects, and I deprecate as much as any man that it should be necessary to bring up such subjects here. I have never crossed the threshold of an Orange Lodge, and know nothing of the principles of that body, except what has been read from the book of Constitution laid on the table. It may be that there is no need of this association; it may be that it is calculated to cause religious strife. But, Sir, there has been religious strife in the Colony for the last few years, and I believe it was not the seeking of Protestants; and, perhaps, if hon. members opposite had been a little more temperate in their language, in regard to Orangemen, on a former occasion, this matter would never have come before the Legislature. From what I know of the Orange Institution, I believe it is nothing more or less than a Protestant association, and I am unable to see on what grounds we can refuse it an Act of Incorporation, simply to enable it to manage its property. We cannot urge as an objection that it will arouse religious animosities, for is it not a fact that feelings of this kind have been rife for several years? Why is it that we now see on the side of Liberalism, in this House, those who were all along on the side of Conservatism? Why was it that at the Election four years ago, after the Government had been eight years under the guidance of the present leader of the Opposition, we had this religious strife first so general? It was, I suppose, the result of his administration. We find this strife continued, and all Roman Catholics banded on one side at the last Election. I have never offered an insult to any Roman Catholic, nor given them any cause of offence, but I must say that though I had been the Grand Master of the Orange Lodge himself, I could not have met with more determined opposition than I received in running my election. There is no doubt that the Roman Catholic Church is a splendid institution, as she all works to a common centre. She is an example to all Protestant Churches in this respect. It is just possible,

too, that the hon. leader of the Opposition thought of the unity of this Church, and how important it would be for the interest of Liberalism to gain her influence. This may have been what originated the religious strife in this community. Now, Sir, let us look at the position in which we are placed. I, Sir, look upon the Orange Institution as one got up to oppose another; and do not consider we have any right to interfere in the matter. I am doubtful whether an Act of Incorporation will tend to advance the Orange association in this country; however, as this application is signed by respectable men, and as we have heard nothing advanced to prove that Orangemen here have been guilty of any breach of the peace, I am prepared to give it my support.

Mr SINCLAIR—Mr. Speaker, I shall most certainly oppose such an Act being placed on our Statute Book, believing it calculated still further to disturb that harmony and good feeling which, until the last few years, has always existed in the Colony. I believe, with that eminent statesman, Lord Palmerston, that Orangeism is an institution of a by-gone age, when rebellion was the order of the day, and when life and liberty were not so sacredly guarded by the laws of the land as in our time. Therefore, I consider that when the occasion which called such an organization into existence, had long since passed away, so also should the organization be allowed to die out. In this enlightened age, and in this peaceful little Colony, I regret to see this institution again revived, and more especially to see this attempt made to legalize it. The petition states, and hon. members have asserted, that it is an Institution for noble and laudable purposes—a peace society, guided by those Christian graces, charity and good-will to all men. But, Sir, these assertions are inconsistent with facts. Does not its very constitution breathe forth enmity and hatred to a certain class of their fellow-men? and does it not infer that Roman Catholics are neither Christians nor loyal subjects? Has not every Orangeman to take a solemn oath that he will never become a Roman Catholic, that he will never marry one, and that he will not allow his children to be instructed by teachers belonging to that Church? If this is charity, all I can say is that it is a different kind from what the Bible teaches. And, Sir, when we look at the history of this peace society, do we not find that in its train have invariably followed disturbance, brutality and bloodshed. The hon. member for Charlottetown has stated that this association has been organized in this Island for the purpose of counteracting a Popish organization, and referred to the Catholics at the late elections voting against him and his party. But, Sir, we must recollect that a large portion of the Catholics have always been on the Liberal side in politics; and I believe their combination at the late elections was not with the slightest intention of infringing upon the rights of Protestants, but solely on account of certain slanders and abusive writings emanating from a high official in the Government, and published by another Government officer, both of whom receive high salaries, towards the payment of which Roman Catholics have to contribute. These writings were most offensive to the Roman Catholic body, and they therefore were determined to oppose, and if in their power, to overthrow, a Government which would keep officials to ridicule and insult their religion. Sir, the Roman Catholic population of the Colony have never sought to interfere with the privileges of Protestants; on the contrary, they in the most liberal manner have refrained from asserting, to the full extent, their own rights; and even when the Liberals were in power, and we had a Catholic Governor, they never claimed their fair share of the public offices. In the selection of their representatives, also, they have invariably made no distinction between Catholics and Protestants. The material in this House will bear out my statement. I am of opinion, therefore, that they have given no cause to induce Protestants to band together against them. I am afraid, Sir, that such combinations, legalized by the Legislature, instead of promoting peace and harmony in this Island, will only tend to arouse the