

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I lay these various and weighty matters before you, in full confidence that they will engage your mature attention, and I pray that the result of your deliberations may, with the Divine blessing, prove conducive in all respects to the advancement and happiness of the Country.

On motion of the Honorable Sir *John A. Macdonald*, seconded by the Honorable Sir *George E. Cartier*,

Ordered, That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both Houses of the Parliament of the Dominion of *Canada*, be taken into consideration To-morrow.

Ordered, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof ; and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

Resolved, That Select Standing Committees of this House for the present Session be appointed for the following purposes:—1. On Privileges and Elections.—2. On Expiring Laws.—3. On Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.—4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills.—5. On Standing Orders.—6. On Printing.—7. On Public Accounts.—8. On Banking and Commerce.—9. On Immigration and Colonization, which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by The House ; and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon ; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Resolved, That if anything shall come in question touching the Return or Election of any Member, he is to withdraw during the time the matter is in Debate ; and all Members returned upon double Returns are to withdraw until their Returns are determined.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a Member of this House, or hath endeavoured so to be, by bribery, or any other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

Resolved, That the offer of any money or other advantage to any Member of the House of Commons, for the promoting of any matter whatsoever, depending or to be transacted in the Parliament of the Dominion of *Canada*, is a high crime and misdemeanor, and tends to the subversion of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker communicated to the House, the Report of the Librarian upon the state of the Library of Parliament. (*Sessional Papers, No. 9.*)

On motion of the Honorable Sir *John A. Macdonald*, seconded by the Honorable Sir *George E. Cartier*,

Ordered, That eight days leave of absence be granted to *James F. Lapum*, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of *Addington*, on account of family affliction.

And then The House adjourned till To-morrow.

Thursday, 16th February, 1871.

Mr. *Magill*, from the Select Committee appointed to try and determine the matter of the Petition complaining of an undue Election and Return for the Electoral District of