

Hon. Mr. MACAULAY.—I have no desire, Mr. Chairman, to impede the progress of the Session by any factious opposition to any satisfactory measure the Government may propose. Notwithstanding the terrifying definition given of our form of government, by the Hon. Attorney General during the progress of this debate, when he pronounced Responsible Government to be (in other and more concise words) a quadrennial despotism, I shrink not, although I am in the minority of this House, from the free utterance of my sentiments from the dread of his ire; neither do I wish wantonly to provoke the wrath of his party. But a sense of duty impels me to draw your attention to the extraordinary document which forms the subject of this debate. My justification in so doing is that the destinies of the people are so entwined with the acts of the Government, that the welfare of the one must be promoted or marred by the acts of the other; and, as the document before you will appear on the Journals of this House, and as you have already decided to send copies of that Journal to each of the adjacent British Colonies, special care should be taken that the people's money should not be spent to publish to the world any matter that may tend to their discredit. I do not intend to offer any amendment formally to the Address, or any part of it. The paragraphs of which you have already thought proper to approve, are beyond the reach of any amendment. The clause under consideration, however, with your permission, I will submit to a short, gentle, critical analysis, leaving the matter thereafter in the hands of the Government themselves for subsequent amendment and revision. This course I purpose to pursue, because the majority evince a determination to support every measure they originate, be it beneficial or injurious to the commonwealth. If the Government were truly patriotic, they would studiously endeavor, while professing to benefit the people at home, not to degrade them abroad. How far the document before you is calculated to do the one or the other of these, is problematical. To aid in the solution of this question, I claim the privilege of making the paragraph before you the subject of a few remarks. On reading it, I notice the following words: "We have observed, in common with Your Excellency, the general desire evinced by the tenantry to obtain the fee simple of their lands, by the purchase of their farms." To copy these words into the records of this House without remark, would be branding the whole House with the stigma of imbecility. Why not alter that mawkish sentence, and say in plain words that we know the leaseholders of this Colony are desirous of becoming freeholders. But, Sir, such a plain statement would but ill accord with the twaddle that characterizes the whole Address, no part of which will bear the touch of criticism. I will give you another example, viz.: "And we rejoice to learn that Your Excellency's efforts will be continued to be directed towards extending the operation of the Land Purchase Bill." Here we have the full portrait of that vanity and conceit, if not dissimulation, which have marked the past career of the party who gave birth to this Address,—a party which will be memorable for its vanity and weakness. Through the thin guise that conceals their purpose, it can be seen that they play with the hopes of the people, as an engine to retain that power, which, by the same instrumentality, they lately obtained. Why not say, in plain and unambiguous words, that the tenantry of this Colony owe to His Excellency a debt of gratitude for having been the instrument of making so many of the former leaseholders of this Colony the freeholders of the soil which they formerly held as leaseholders? Such a sentiment would be ill-suited to their purpose. They prefer to hover about the subject, rather than strike at the root of the evil at once and abolish it forever. The sentence last quoted does not include all the absurdity in the Address. In the same strain of

inexpressive ambiguity, are the following words: "We trust the remaining proprietors." Does this mean the proprietors that are yet living? [Laughter.] Certainly the dead and gone do not remain. [Laughter.] But, Sir, I am weary of reviewing this silly document, and I will cease provoking your risibilities by further criticising a production that should create in us all a feeling of humility, when we consider that it emanated from persons who constituted themselves the Government of an intelligent and an enlightened community,—a community whose intelligence will be estimated abroad by the acts of the parties who, by political fate, sway the destinies of the Colony. Sir, it is my sincere desire to see all our people happy, prosperous, and progressive, and trying to equal, if not surpass, their surrounding neighbours, and to cause the fame of their excellence to extend as far as the name of the Colony is known. But the Address under review is not calculated to promote that desire; and, as it is not my intention to offer any amendment thereto, for reasons aforesaid, I hope the Government will withdraw it, or get some competent person to revise it for them, before it goes abroad to the world. [Applause.] The Hon. Attorney General seems to favor obtaining a loan in the British market. Does he think that money will breed money? It is folly, except under very extreme circumstances, for this country to go into a foreign market for money; because the interest will have to be paid out of the Colony yearly, and finally the principal also.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—If the doctrines laid down by the hon. member are right, then it is a pity that he has not given the world the benefit of his counsel. He ought at once to be sent on an express to England, to prevent other Colonies ruining themselves by contracting loans, for most of them are doing so at present. Let him be appointed general Colonial Finance Minister, and let a telegram be at once sent to London by the Atlantic cable, to let the world know he is coming; and then let him go to South Australia, Canada, and elsewhere, to advise their various assemblies on financial measures.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN.—Send him to Van Diemen's Land.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL.—No, I would not let him go to *Van Diemen's Land*; I respect him too much for that. They borrow money in Australia and other countries, and why cannot we safely do so too? Now, if the Government can borrow money to purchase out the remaining estates of the proprietors, it will be wise to do so. I quite agree that a loan should not be contracted, unless the money can be obtained on terms that are reasonable, and under circumstances that the corresponding advantages will be an equivalent for the interest. Without referring to what has taken place in 1848, I cannot express the hope of our now getting a guarantee from the Imperial Government; we must depend upon our own credit and resources to raise the money in England. And, Sir, looking at the state of the country at present, I do think we would be justified in endeavoring—nay, indeed, that we ought to endeavor—to obtain a loan. We see that the securities of Nova Scotia stand at 97, in the quotations of the British market. Surely, then, it would be nothing very objectionable or disreputable in us to legislate, in order to effect what they have done in Nova Scotia. It would not at least be anything very extraordinary for the Government to adopt such a policy. Notwithstanding all that has been said by the hon. member for Georgetown, to whom I listened with pleasure, while discussing the financial affairs of this Colony, I have not yet heard any idea advanced by him, or any other hon. member, to show that it is wrong for any party to come to this House, and ask for its interfer-