

deal has been said with regard to the old system; it is very well known that under the old system, magistrates have very little power with regard to the expenditure of the District funds; and if they do any thing wrong the law is open to the aggrieved party or to complaint on the part of the public, and I believe you will get more speedy justice against magistrates than you will ever be able to get from the District councils. (Hear, hear.) In the multitude of Councillors there may be safety, but it will be safety for the Councillors themselves and not for the public. You will have seven hundred persons elected in the province of Upper Canada, one third of whom are to be renewed every year: where then will be the peace and quietness and freedom from turmoil and disturbance which was thought so desirable the other day when the bill to naturalize foreigners was under discussion and there was a forcible comparison drawn between our own institutions and those of the United States? This bill instead of being productive of those benefits which are so loudly vaunted by hon. members, will be, in my opinion, destructive of the prosperity of the country.

Mr. BALDWIN said he could not concur with the hon and learned gentleman from Lenox and Addington. Although he was willing to attribute to that hon and learned gentleman, on all occasions, due credit for candor and sincerity, yet he had drawn such a frightful picture of little republics about to be established by this bill, and of one district making war upon another, that he (Mr. Baldwin) really thought the hon and learned gentleman must be laboring under some hallucination. If the hon and learned gentleman would look into the history of municipal institutions as they exist in England, and even in this province; in the city of Toronto, and in the present metropolis, he would have little reason to be apprehensive as to their operation; he would find that the bloodshed and battery which he dreads exists only in his imagination. He (Mr Baldwin) did not wish to be pressed into a vote upon this bill without full consideration, and until he learned from the hon and learned gentleman who brought the measure forward what modification he was willing to admit.

Mr. MORIN said it was difficult for him to determine whether to vote for this measure or not, as the Upper Canada members were so much divided upon it: at all events he was not prepared to give his vote for the bill as it stands. He believed it was good in principle, but decidedly bad in its details.

Mr. NEILSON said he believed that a majority of that house desired that the power of local self government should be given to the people of both provinces. He confessed, however, that the project did not seem calculated to give them that local self government. [Hear, hear.] If they were not to have a free and correct representation it would have an injurious effect; the interests of the many would be sacrificed to the interests of the few. If persons are to be appointed by the Governor to preside at these Councils, and to fill the offices connected with them, there will be a want of confidence on the part of the people; and of all things a want of confidence is the most fatal in the affairs of government. Such a system can not prevail; it will be put down by the force of public opinion. He (Mr Neilson) was not inclined to say that all the power should be given to the people: it must be only such power as is known to the British Constitution; but as the bill stands it gives a semblance only of self government, while in reality it is a complete system of despotism.

Mr. BALDWIN moved that the committee rise and report progress.

Mr. HIXON said, before the question was put he hoped the committee would indulge him in replying to some observations which had been made by the hon and learned gentleman from Lenox and Addington. The hon gentleman was pleased to give me credit for candor and sincerity, and at the same time to state that I am in favor of republican institutions. I defy that hon gentleman to make good his assertion. [Hear.] I have advocated, it is true, the principles of responsible government, but when hon gentlemen state that I have ever penned a line in favor of the introduction of republican institutions into this country, it is a gross libel. [Hear, hear.] With reference to taxation, I say the people of Upper Canada are willing to be taxed more than they are, provided those taxes are expended judiciously in public improvements. [Hear.]

Mr. PARENT said, although he was not accustomed to speak very often or very long in that house, it might be proper on this occasion that he should express his views with regard to the bill. He would readily have joined with members from the western section of the province in framing a general law, based on liberal and proper principles, which should be applicable to both provinces. He was in favor of municipal government, but he was also in favor of equal justice. His ideas upon the subject were based upon the broad principles of an enlightened policy.

Mr. Attorney General DRAPER, in the absence of his hon friend who had introduced the bill, assented to the proposition that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again, which was accordingly done.

THURSDAY, August 5.

Shortly after the meeting of the House this day,

Mr. CAMERON moved that the petition of the Rev. Mr. Hall and others, of the county of Stanstead, on the subject of Education and the propriety of using the Bible in Common Schools, be referred to a select committee of seven members, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report thereon.

Upon this motion a debate ensued. When the Reporter entered the House, he found Col. PRINCE addressing the Speaker. He had the greatest pleasure in supporting the motion, and he could scarcely trust himself to speak with calmness and moderation upon the conduct of those hon. members who had opposed it. But the subject was too solemn to be debated with excited feelings. By the vote about to be given upon this question, the character of that house would be stamped with honor or branded with disgrace [hear, hear]. The motion merely asks for reference of the subject to a select committee; if we refuse that motion, we virtually repudiate the admission into our schools of that sacred volume upon which all our hopes in a future state depend. Looking at the Bible as the most ancient book of history—as a specimen of language the most concise and elegant, and perfect, I contend that it ought to be admitted as a class book for the instruction of our youth, and I feel assured that not one Roman Catholic, of education, in one hundred, will dissent from this proposition [hear, hear]. Then, sir, why hesitate to support this motion? But I put the sacred volume upon higher grounds; I look upon it as the rock upon which our future hopes are built; I consider that part of it called the New Testament as the best and greatest consolation that man can look to for happiness in this life or in the life to come.—And though I am no bigot in religion and will cheerfully concede the point that there are many roads to heaven—and God grant we may all meet there after the disputes, turmoils, and troubles of this life have passed

away)—yet I cannot conceive that we should even indirectly cast a slur upon the holy bible by voting against the motion of my honorable friend. What, sir, will the country say to us? what will the country think of this the first United Parliament, which deliberately refuses for the first time [and this the only instance on record] to refer to a select committee the petition of any man, and above all the petition of the reverend divine who has so piously, so honorably, so creditably for his own reputation, petitioned us. Sir, I will say no more; by the decision of this question the character of this house will be for ever stamped—will be finally determined. Enquiry and information before a select committee can do no harm, and if you refuse that, you will be justly branded with a cold indifference to the truth of that religion which every christian, be he Roman Catholic or be he Protestant, at least affects to venerate [hear, hear].

The motion was granted.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

On motion of Mr. MORIN to refer the ordinance of the Special Council of Lower Canada on the subject of the establishment of District Councils to the committee of the whole house to which was referred the bill to provide for the establishment of similar institutions in the western part of the province—

Mr. Secretary HARRISON rose and said he hoped hon members were not going to mix up the discussion of the ordinance of the Special Council with that of this measure, which had nothing to do with it. The principle of this measure had been already discussed, and it was admitted on all hands to be a boon which was anxiously desired by the people. It was a measure which created an important extension of popular influence. That extension he (Mr. Harrison) would be most happy to see granted so far as it could be safely done, as long as it were guarded by proper restrictions. He had brought forward this liberal measure with the expectation that it would become a law. If, however, it were intended by hon members of that house to embarrass the measure with alterations and amendments, it would have the effect of destroying the munificent intentions of the government. (Hear, hear.) The question seems to reduce itself into a very narrow compass; it amounts to this, whether this house has confidence in the government or not. If not, there is a very obvious course to be taken; if it has, then that confidence should be sufficient to induce the house to adopt the measure as it is proposed. The measure has been brought forward in compliance with the wishes of the people, and if it be now destroyed by this house, the fault must not rest with the government but with the representatives of the people themselves. (Hear.) It is upon these grounds that I shall hold to the bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill. (Hear, hear, hear.) I place the responsibility of the government upon this bill. If the house are dissatisfied with it they will proceed in that course which is open to them constitutionally. That the measure will give satisfaction I have no doubt; that it might also be advantageously amended in some particulars I have no doubt, (hear, hear,) but it was not the duty of the government to bring forward a measure different from that which has been provided for Lower Canada; and that it is but now going into operation is a sufficient reason why the Legislature should for the present abstain from amending it. When experience has shown that an error has been committed, then come forward and make those amendments which may be considered necessary. With these observations I shall leave the matter to be treated as this house