

the responsibility of advising it; but, if he, Mr. Aikins, decided on accepting office in the Government, his doing so would not interfere with the private friendship between them, which had been of long duration, and as far as he (Mr. McMaster) was concerned, he would support him in all measures which were in the interests of the country. With regard to Coalitions generally, some high authorities were of opinion that under certain circumstances they became a necessity, but he had always expressed himself very guardedly with reference to such combinations, and would continue to do so, if for no other reason than because they were very distasteful to his former constituents in North York, who had treated him with much confidence and kindness, and who, for respectability and intelligence were second to none in the Dominion. He trusted these explanations would satisfy his hon. friend, if not he should be happy to answer any other questions he might put (hear, hear).

**Hon. Mr. Reesor** said it appeared to him that one important matter in relation to the correspondence was being overlooked. At the last general election the question before the constituencies was "Coalition or no Coalition," and the appeal to the constituencies was virtually on that single issue. The Coalition had been sustained by the constituencies; but since then the compact had been broken, the constitution, or composition, of the ministry having been changed; and on this matter there was a very strong feeling throughout Upper Canada. He thought some explanations were due and should be made as to the nature and circumstances of those changes; and if that were done both the House and the country would feel more satisfied. Personally he was satisfied that the Secretary of State had no intention of misleading the House; but he considered it advisable for the Minister to make some explanations as to the basis upon which the Cabinet had been reconstructed, and also as to the policy which should be pursued.

**Hon. Mr. Aikins** said that before he joined the ministry he had satisfied himself that the policy of the Government would be liberal. He did not think it was his duty so much to enquire whether one or two or five of his old political friends would be in the Cabinet, as he felt satisfied that the policy of the Government would meet the wants of the country (hear, hear).

After some remarks of a personal nature from several members,

**Hon. Mr. Simpson**, referring to the published correspondence, thought it was quite clear that Mr. McMaster had never at any time tendered his advice, and he thought that should be sufficient (hear, hear).

la lourde responsabilité d'avoir conseillé une décision aussi grave; toutefois, si M. Aikins décidait d'accepter l'offre du Gouvernement, leur amitié personnelle qui date de très loin ne s'en ressentirait aucunement et, en ce qui concerne M. McMaster, il appuierait tous les projets de loi qui favoriseraient la croissance du pays. Quant aux coalitions en général, certains grands personnages sont d'avis qu'elles sont parfois nécessaires, mais M. McMaster a toujours abordé cette question avec beaucoup de réserve et il continuera à le faire, même si ce n'est pour la raison que les ententes de ce genre répugnent à ses anciens électeurs de York-Nord qui lui ont toujours accordé leur confiance et leur générosité et qui par leur respectabilité et leur intelligence, sont des citoyens hors pair du Dominion. Il espère que ces explications sauront satisfaire son honorable collègue, sinon, il sera heureux de répondre à toutes autres questions. (Bravo!)

**L'honorable M. Reesor** dit qu'à son avis, on a oublié une importante question concernant la correspondance. Les dernières élections générales ont été contestées presque exclusivement sur le litige de la coalition. L'électorat a alors sanctionné la création d'un Gouvernement de coalition, mais depuis, l'entente a été révoquée car la composition du Cabinet a été modifiée. Dans le Haut-Canada, le sentiment populaire s'élève contre cet abus de confiance. Il estime que la nature et les circonstances de ces changements doivent être expliquées et que, si des explications satisfaisantes sont données, la Chambre et le pays s'en accommoderont. Personnellement, il croit bien que le Secrétaire d'État n'avait nullement l'intention de duper la Chambre, mais il estime que le ministre serait bien avisé d'expliquer les critères de remaniement du Cabinet ainsi que la politique qui sera adoptée.

**L'honorable M. Aikins** dit qu'avant d'entrer au Cabinet, il s'est assuré que la politique du Gouvernement serait libérale. Il ne croit pas qu'il était vraiment de son devoir de demander si un ou deux ou cinq de ses anciens collègues partisans feraient partie du Cabinet, car il était convaincu que la politique du Gouvernement répondrait aux besoins du pays. (Bravo!)

Après quelques remarques personnelles de la part de plusieurs membres,

**L'honorable M. Simpson** est d'avis, en ce qui a trait à la correspondance publiée, que de toute évidence, M. McMaster n'a jamais conseillé M. Aikins en cette matière et que ce chapitre devrait être clos. (Bravo!)