

trary, such an intention was openly avowed by several of the speakers on the Ministerial side of the House; and of these admissions I will now proceed to bring a few under Your Lordship's notice.

I. By some of these speakers the payment of Rebels was defended, on the ground that it WAS HIGHLY INEXPEDIENT NOW TO ENQUIRE WHO WERE, OR WHO WERE NOT, REBELS.

1. In the debate of the 13th February, for instance, the Hon. Malcolm Cameron, a member of Your Lordship's Administration, protested against all enquiry on the subject:

"He (Mr. Cameron) trusted there would be no Star Chamber scrutiny as to whether a man was loyal or not; the question was whether property had been wantonly destroyed or not. The people of Upper Canada were satisfied to pay."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 14th February, 1849.]

2. He was supported by the Hon. Francis Hincks, another member of Your Lordship's Administration, who, in the same debate, made use of the following expressions:

"It appeared, from what the hon. member stated, that he had no objection to the payment of what he had called the just claims for Rebellion Losses; and yet, at the same time, was very indignant, as was also the hon. member for Frontenac, that any person who was not, in their phraseology, a loyalist, should be paid. In reply to that, he would merely have to quote the words of his hon. friend, the member for Kent, who had asked if they were going to establish a Star Chamber Commission, to try who was loyal and who was not."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 14th February, 1849.]

3. Mr. Hincks repeated this argument in even stronger and more unequivocal terms in a circular issued by him, under date of the 10th February:

"It may happen that parties were engaged in the rebellion who were never convicted of high treason, and who, therefore, WOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED UNDER THE ACT. I believe the amount of such claims would be very small in proportion to the whole amount; and it would be very injudicious indeed were the Legislature, for the sake of excluding them, to sanction a false principle, and to allow any set of Commissioners to decide arbitrarily that men were rebels who had never been convicted of high treason."—[*Montreal Pilot Extra*, 26th February, 1849.]

4. In the same circular, Mr. Hincks writes as follows:—

"It is not proposed to pay a shilling to any individual who has been convicted of high treason; but,

in dealing with the question, it is impossible to determine who were and who were not Rebels."—[*Montreal Pilot Extra*, 26th February, 1849.]

5. The Hon. Wm. H. Merritt, President of your Lordship's Council, thus spoke in the debate of the 15th February:—

"A general amnesty has since been proclaimed, and could we draw an odious and invidious distinction, at this late day, to create dissatisfaction? We trust all are now good and loyal subjects; it is our duty to keep them so, and not disturb the harmony which now happily prevails. From the results of my own personal experience, I feel it would be very difficult to draw those delicate distinctions between those called loyal and disloyal."—[*Montreal Pilot Extra*, 26th February, 1849.]

6. During a subsequent debate similar language was used by the Hon. Robert Baldwin, a fourth member of Your Lordship's Administration:—

"He agreed entirely with his Hon. friend from Norfolk, that after an Act of Amnesty, it would be disrespectful to Her Majesty, and an outrage on the man seeking compensation, to enquire what part he took at the time of the troubles."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 28th February, 1849.]

7. Lewis T. Drummond, Esq., Solicitor General for Canada East under Your Lordship's present Ministry, not content with supporting the opinion of Mr. Baldwin, as given above, carried the principle to an extent which I should hope even that gentleman would hesitate to adopt. Speaking of the convictions recorded in the Courts Martial against parties taken in the act of rebellion, he said:—

"He hoped the time would come when these decisions would be reversed, but let it be done in a constitutional way. It was no business of the House to say who were guilty of high treason, for the Act of Indemnity had done away with all that. In technical language, the persons pardoned were in the same position as before."—[*Montreal Pilot*, 28th February, 1849.]

And yet, my Lord, these very persons have induced your Lordship to believe that they had no intention "to compensate the losses of persons guilty of the heinous crime of treason," while in the House of Assembly as Your Lordship will perceive, they had denounced as "impossible," "very injudicious," "a Star Chamber scrutiny," "a false principle," "an outrage," to the claimant,

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