

ment were in his hands that he demanded his removal. Mr. H. described the state of terror that prevailed upon the Windsor Road arising out of the Railway riots—the sympathy exhibited by their countrymen and co-religionists on the line, and in the City, to defeat the ends of justice—the trial of the rioters—the controversy, commenced in the *Halifax Catholic* which followed, in which it was sought to justify outrage upon the plea of religion. He had been charged as a persecutor to which his entire life gave the lie, he did not apologize for a word he had said or written, and all he asked for himself was the same measure of justice claimed by Irishmen. He had been true to his friends in bright and dark days alike, and if some under pressure too strong to withstand, swell the ranks of Opposition they leave the Protestant Liberals and not the Protestant Liberals them. For his own part, if the Government he served was placed in a minority, he would not hesitate an instant to surrender his office and if they must go down share in their misfortunes.

Mr. McKenney then took the floor, and stated there were several charges in his bill of indictment upon which he desired to arraign the government. The hon. gentleman then referred to some local matters, and stated the main charge which he felt compelled to prepare against the Government was that they had identified themselves with Mr. Howe in a proscription of the Catholic body.

He said that this charge was substantiated not only by the promulgation of the letters of Mr. Howe, in the official organ of the Government, but also by their republication in every Liberal journal in the Province over, endorsed by editorial remarks.

After the conclusion of the hon. gentleman's address, Hon. Mr. Howe arose, and denied the statement of the last speaker, averring that his (Mr. Howe's) charges were confined to a faction which had distinguished themselves for disloyalty and outrages, and that if he referred to Catholics at all, the example had been set him by the honorable member himself, who, at the last session had attempted to excite religious antagonism by repeated references to the exclusion of his co-religionists from office.

Mr. McKenney explained—He had always thought the Catholics were not fairly dealt with; his object had been only to obtain equal rights for them, and therefore the allusion of the hon. member for Windsor was inapplicable. A desultory conversation occurred upon other points, which the Speaker declared to be out of order.

TUESDAY, FEB. 10.

Hon. Mr. Wier said, it was scarcely necessary for him to defend the measures of the Government. Under the Reciprocity Act, which every one but the member for Guysborough considers one of the most valuable measures ever carried through the Legislature, the country had risen to an unexampled degree of prosperity. There was nothing in the present state of affairs to warrant a change of Administration, and if it took place to-morrow, in what respect would the condition of the people of this Province be improved? The desire for office, and that alone, was the cause of the movement, and it would be strange indeed if the gentleman who had resisted the introduction of our public works and almost every other large and beneficial public measure was to be placed at the head of affairs.—Mr. W. referred to the Condon Telegraph with which his name has been mixed up, but which he had never seen until it appeared in the papers the expense of which was not borne by the funds of the Charitable Irish Society, but out of Mr. Condon's own pocket. The people of this country, when appealed to in 1855, declared their confidence in the present Administration, and he did not believe that if the opportunity offered, they would transfer it to other hands.

Hon. Mr. Henry then rose and said, that he had tendered his resignation, and that he was no longer a member of the Administration. The act was the result of several weeks deliberation, and when he left his late colleagues it was from no selfish motive and from no fault of his.

Mr. John Tobin rose and stated that he held in his hand a letter from Mr. Condon on the subject of his dismissal—complaining that he had not been afforded an opportunity of explaining his conduct by the government.

The hon. gentleman read the letter, which complained of an editorial in the last *Morning Chronicle*, to the effect that justice had at last overtaken Mr. Condon.

Mr. Tobin then proceeded to speak upon the motion before the House, and said it was the disposition of the supporters of the government at the last session to give them a fair trial.

He said his policy was unaffected by what had occurred since the close of the last session.

He then referred to the Foreign Enlistment question, and he said he was in New York at the time Mr. Howe was there engaged in enlisting recruits for the Foreign Legion, and that he endeavoured to subdue the excitement which existed there in reference to that question. He said that he never heard an Irishman of this city attack Mr. Howe for the part he had taken in that business, until he had made the speech at the Crampton meeting.—For his part he would never seek to prevent a countryman of his from enlisting under the British flag, and endeavouring to sustain the honor of the empire under

which we live. He thought it unfair to attack the whole Catholic body on account of the part one or two individuals had taken at the Crampton meeting, who were not Irishmen at all. One was a Scotchman and the other was a Nova Scotian. With regard to Mr. Condon's case he would ask why the government had not dismissed him before, instead of waiting till after the motion of want of confidence was moved. He stated that he received a message from the Provincial Secretary the day after the house met, asking him to attend a meeting of the government supporters, and that he refused.

Hon. Provincial Secretary explained that the message was a mistake—it was intended for members of government alone.

Mr. Tobin said he accepted the explanation, but however that might be, an hour after he refused to attend the meeting Mr. Condon was dismissed. The hon. gentleman stated that he understood that Mr. Howe had threatened to go into opposition if Mr. Condon was not dismissed; and therefore he, Mr. Tobin, had determined not to attend the meeting, because he must have opposed the action of the government on that point, and he would be sorry by any action of his to force Mr. Howe into opposition, and have it said that he was the cause of his losing his office. He had therefore determined to go into opposition himself, principally upon the ground that Mr. Howe had tried to stir up a religious proscription. He, Mr. Tobin, only wished to have equal rights for his co-religionists, and deprecated religious crusades of this kind.

The hon. gentleman here read extracts from the editorials of the *Catholic*, and from the letters of the Hon. Mr. Howe; and concluded by stating that the reason why he had decided to withdraw his support from the government was, that they had identified themselves with Mr. Howe in his religious proscription of the Catholics. He said that he felt deep regret in parting from his old friends, but that he had taken his stand, and from henceforth would be found standing in the ranks of the opposition.

The Attorney General explained that for his part he deprecated all religious intolerance. The cardinal principle of his political life had always been equality for all—ascendancy for none. He stated that the government had nothing to do with the quarrel between Mr. Howe and the Catholics, and that as to the dismissal of Mr. Condon, they had done nothing to mix themselves up with it. When the proper time came he would explain his reasons for that act.

Mr. Annand followed, and joined issue with Mr. Tobin. He denied most emphatically that the Government, through its officers or its organs, ever avowed any desire to proscribe the class of Christians to which the hon. member belonged. The papers referred to had done their duty in expressing their disapproval of lawless aggression, and they would, one and all have been recreant to the principles of the Liberal Party if they had not spoken out fearlessly in defence of our civil and religious rights. As far as he, Mr. A., knew, the Government had no Organ—he could speak confidently of the one he had the credit of editing—and he often thought his friends in the Administration committed a grave error and that they would have stood better with the country if they had given a little more of their confidence to gentlemen connected with the Liberal Press. But there were other "Organs" besides those of the Administration. There was the Catholic Organ—the Organ of Mr. T's own church—his own organ, in which the seeds of the controversy now agitating the country were sown. It would not be denied that in that paper the conduct of the Railway rioters was excused if not justified on the plea of religion, and up to this hour the editorial paragraph published in Mr. Howe's first letter, and which created so deep a feeling among Protestants had never been disavowed by those who represent the opinions and influence the movements of the members of that communion. Mr. A. differed with his colleague on another point. He did believe that there were a good many persons of that communion in the city who sympathized with Russia during the war, and he could give the name of at least one prominent individual who objected to voting for himself at the last election, because his friend Mr. Howe had gone to the United States for the purpose of recruiting the armies of the Empire. But there was plenty of evidence of this disloyal spirit in his hon. colleague's own paper, all through the war, and long after, and it was only a few weeks ago that the Editors thanked God that England had been humbled and her power circumscribed. He did not blame all the Irish population with sharing these sentiments, or even a majority of them, but he did blame all who endorsed the views of the paper to which he referred. Mr. A. said that there were three several occasions on which it was the duty of the Government

to have dismissed Mr. Condon, and he for one had determined to go into opposition if it had not been done. All he asked was that the same rules of administration should be applied to that officer which he would apply to Churchmen, Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians.

Mr. Churchill compared the government to a ship fast drifting on a lee shore—there would be no lives lost, but it would be amazing to see the inmates struggling to escape. He stated that when he came to the house he recommended a person for appointment as a magistrate for Hantsport, which had not been attended to.

Again, with regard to the Maine Liquor Law, he was surprised with the action of the Atty. General, but since then he had ascertained that the wind blew every way in the house. He then related an anecdote about selling chickens, which reminded him of the feelings of a new member of the house. He thought the hon. member for Windsor had been the cause of the defeat of the Government. He must have something of the feelings of Bonaparte when he entered Moscow. He thought Mr. Howe never expected such a result when he commenced his letters.

With regard to the Foreign Enlistment question,—the men who made all this talk came in his vessel—as they passed by where he was standing on the shore, they cried, "Hurrah for Sebastopol." He thought Mr. Howe was not altogether to blame for the downfall of the Government. He reminded the Attorney General that he had stated on the floor of the house that the opposition should not have a shilling of the public money unless the government choose to give it.

Now, with regard to the Catholics, every one knew that they held the balance of power in this country,—but we are not afraid that they would demand more than their just rights.

Mr. Parker and Mr. Dimock defended their own conduct and that of the Government in reference to the charge brought by Mr. Churchill.

Mr. McLellan said he did not wish to mix himself up with religious quarrels. Early in life he had taken a disgust to them. Therefore he would not say anything on that point. He then proceeded at some length to defend the government, and attacked the speech of the hon. member for Annapolis.

Mr. Whitman said he did not consider the speech of the hon. member for Windsor at all relevant to the question under debate. He referred to the position of the Conservative body, and remarked that they remained as they ever had been, true to their principles. This was all that he would say on the general question, but he had a private affair of his own with the government. The present representatives of Annapolis had been returned for ten years by large majorities,—during all that time they had never been once consulted by the Government with regard to the affairs of the country. He referred to the school board for Annapolis county, and stated that five of the seven were Liberals. Again, with regard to the appointment of Sheriff, the sense of the county was not taken, nor the opinion of the representatives asked.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11.

Mr. M. I. Wilkins addressed the chair in an elaborate speech enlivened with a good deal of humor, which occupied about an hour and a half in the delivery. The hon. member went at large into the enlistment question, charging the Government with sending an officer who had been employed to perform very different duties—defended Mr. Condon, who, he contended, was an innocent and very ill used man—asserted that the *Halifax Catholic* was the organ of one man and not of a body of Christians, and that therefore, the charges hurled against that denomination were undeserved. Mr. W. urged that the Catholics had been ill-treated by the Liberals, who, he said, did the work and the Protestants took the pay—charged Mr. Howe with having indiscriminately assailed the whole body, with stirring up a spirit of religious persecution, and he contended that it was the duty of the Government to have dismissed him, instead of Mr. Condon, for offending so large a section of their friends.

Mr. Howe replied.—He proved by reference to his entire political career that as he was the first to take the field, in behalf of the privileges and rights of Catholics, it was impossible he could ever attempt to proscribe or persecute that or any other body of Christians. Any one who put that construction on his letters misrepresented or misunderstood the entire strain of his argument, and it was not until the expression was used by the Editor of the *Catholic* himself, that he over charged the outrage on Gourlay's shanty as having been perpetrated in the name of religion. There was evidence enough, previous to the riots, and long before he had written a line, that there was a disposition on the part of some of the Catholics to secede from the Administration. One had resigned his seat in the Executive, another, a near connexion of the Attorney General, had vacated the Chair of the Legislative Council, a third waited on himself last winter, and after stipulating that he (Mr. H.) should be taken care of, proposed to break up the Government. Mr. Marshall and Mr. MacKenney briefly replied. The House rose about 7½ o'clock, and adjourned.