

give you the views of Lord Palmerston in regard to this association:

The advocates of Orangeism, on the 18th Feb. 1858, waited on Lord Palmerston, for the purpose of presenting a memorial from that body. A report of the same, "The deputation of conservative members of Parliament and gentlemen representing the Orange associations of the North of Ireland, consisting of the Earl of Enniskillen, the Earl of Belmore, Lord Claude Hamilton, M. P., Mr Richardson, M. P., Mr Millen, M. P., Mr Davison, M. P., Mr Archdall, M. P., Mr Cairns, M. P., Mr Whiteside, M. P., &c., appeared in the London papers of the 19th February.

Lord Palmerston in reply said: "I am clearly of opinion that it would be far better for us to look to the future than to the past; and what, let me ask, is the object, and what are the prospective advantages of this Orange association? Is it an organization which belongs to the age in which we live. * *

I have no intention to say anything offensive to the Orange association; but I must be allowed to say, that the very foundation on which it rests, casts a reflection on the institutions of the Empire; and coupled as it is with old recollections of periods when the action of the Government, and the authority of the state were less efficient than they are now to protect life and property. * * * I do think that the protection of individuals should be left to the law of the land, and that the formation of private associations for the purpose of supplying defects in the law, is not a system suitable to the spirit of the times in which we live."

This is the opinion of a true specimen of a loyal-hearted Englishman—of one, who, I am not going too far to say, is the first Commoner in the world. I will also read to you the opinion of Lord John Russell, who, though not so high an authority as Lord Palmerston on such a question, yet his views are entitled to consideration. Lord John Russell in a speech in the House of Commons, on the subject of the "Belfast riots in Ireland," said:—

"It was the interest of every Government that such societies should not exist; though they might have been justified in the first instance, though they might have been called into life by some emergency in which, under the expectation of rebellion, loyal men united to defend the Crown at a period of danger—when that necessity had passed over, it was most inadvisable that they should be any longer continued in a state of activity."

I am not aware, Sir, that we are in expectation of a rebellion here, or that there is much danger of the Americans, in the midst of their present strife, coming to this Island to agitate separation from the mother country. And under the pretence that there is danger of this kind at hand, or that the Protestant succession to the Throne is in danger, are we Roman Catholics away in the back woods of P. E. Island to be proscribed? I hope every hon member will hesitate before he records a vote that will tend to disgrace the Colony. Let whatever may result from this application, were it conceded, I will never join a Ribbon society. I believe the day has gone by for such institutions, and that this is a time when all denominations of Christians should live on friendly terms. Am I, Sir, to be proscribed, because it was my fortune or misfortune to be born in the Church of Rome? Out upon such exclusiveness! I will oppose the petition going any further.

Hon Mr THORNTON—There is no necessity for so many allusions to old matters in this debate. The only reason I have for opposing the prayer of the petition, is because it will stir up religious strife. From the documents read by the hon Colonial Secretary, it appears that the Orange association claims to be tolerant, but their oath forbids them marrying a Roman Catholic. This, I suppose is a very harmless prohibition, but it does not show much of their charity. They claim also to support the principles and practice of the Christian religion; but from what we can

learn of their institution, there is no Christianity in it.—This agitation at the present time is quite unnecessary.—The country is now quiet, and it ought to be allowed to remain so. I thought this religious agitation was over when the Bible question was set at rest. If we grant an Act of Incorporation to this association, the matter will not stop here, but we will probably have to grant one to another similar institution, of an opposite character.

Hon Mr WHELAN—Mr Speaker, I was disposed to reserve any remarks which I intended to make on this subject, until the Bill was brought in and had reached its second reading—which stage, I presume it will reach, as the Colonial Secretary would not likely introduce this matter, were he not confident of carrying it through; but as others are expressing their opinions at this stage of the proceedings, I will also give some of my views on the Orange Institution, to which I have very strong objections. And while I say that I have a strong aversion to the institution, do not misunderstand me, Sir, as I have no feelings of animosity against any individual who may be connected with it. I believe there are persons members of this association for whom I entertain a very high respect, and with whom I agree on almost every subject save this. I may compliment the hon Colonial Secretary, who has become the champion of Protestantism, on his happy stroke of policy in introducing this subject on St. Patrick's, the anniversary of the natal day of Ireland's patron Saint. This Saint is distinguished for one particular thing, namely, exterminating the vermin from Ireland. It is, therefore, rather singular that on this day, an application should be brought forward in this House for legalising the "nasty vermin of Orangeism"—as great a moral vermin as ever infested God's earth. There are falsehoods in the petition before the House, which cannot be passed over.—One or other of two alternatives is set forth, either that Roman Catholics here are of no religious persuasion, or that they are not loyal subjects of Her Majesty the Queen of England. Take either alternative and it is a libel against nearly one half of the population of this Colony, and a falsehood so gross, that I shall not occupy time in exposing it. Another object of this Institution is to maintain the connection between the Colonies and the Mother Country. I am not aware, Sir, that there is any danger of this connection being severed—none at least so great as to warrant us in legalizing an association here, of the character of the Orange Institution. Another object of the society is to uphold the supremacy of the laws. The majesty of the law never stood in need of their aid. The Government of Great Britain requires no assistance from any such organization to maintain its authority in any of Her Majesty's wide spread dominions. This Institution also claims to support the Christian religion. Are not the Roman Catholics Christians? Is the religion professed by two-thirds of the Christian world to be ignored, when an institution hostile to Roman Catholicism, claims it as a pre-eminent right to uphold the Christian religion?—Again we are told that Orangemen are bound to promote charity. Is it charitable that a person should place himself under the obligation of an oath never to marry a Roman Catholic? Supposing his better judgment should teach him that his religion is wrong, and he should become a Roman Catholic, where then would be this charity? Is it charity to support an institution which has been attended with so many breaches of the peace? Is it promoting the glory of God to recognize an association, whose career is marked by riot, ruffianism and crime? The petition says, tranquility has existed in the Colony since the organization of Orange Lodges. This infers, that formerly there was not peace in the Colony, and that to Orangemen we are indebted for our tranquility. I believe there have been Orangemen in the Island for a number of years, though they were afraid to acknowledge themselves. In 1852, a proclamation was issued against the formation of Orange Lodges, by Sir Alexander Bannerman, and nothing was heard of them for a time. The hon member for Queen's County, has stated that they sprung up through opposition to them in this House; but if opposition was the cause of