

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—I am afraid I did.

MR. M. C. CAMERON—Then he has been guilty of a violation of his own rule. (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. HOLTON—I think I owe the Hon. Atty. Gen. West a word of explanation. I was not so fortunate as to be in Parliament in 1861, and I have never happened to read the speech from which he quoted. I should be very sorry to misrepresent him, and perhaps I would have misrepresented him in making the statement I did, if I had read that speech. But I think he will bear me out in this, that at the British American League, some fifteen years ago, he did vote and speak in favor of a legislative union.

HON. ATTY. GEN. MACDONALD—My hon. friend is mistaken.

HON. MR. HOLTON—That body, at all events, did pass certain resolutions in favor of a legislative union. The hon. gentleman was a member of that body, and either voted for or against those resolutions—he can say which. My impression is that he supported them. At all events, he will not deny that last session, in the debate on the Address, or on the motion of the honorable member for South Oxford, he did express an opinion in favor of a Legislative union, as distinguished from a Federal union. It was shortly before the change of Government, and there was some difference between the two honorable gentlemen—the Hon. Attorney General East and the Hon. Attorney General West—who were then sitting on this side. And in the committee, formed on the motion of the honorable member for South Oxford, the Hon. Attorney General West voted against the Federative system, and declared himself in favor of the Legislative system in contradistinction to the other, and my impression was that he had uniformly held that ground. It now appears that in his speech of 1861 he shews that at that time he contemplated the possibility of a modified sort of Federation—a Federation very different, however, from the joint authority of the honorable member for South Oxford, who argues that this is the very measure of the Convention of 1859.

HON. MR. BROWN—It is on the same basis.

HON. MR. HOLTON—It is the same basis; but in the one, the federal authority has the preponderance—in the other the local authority.

HON. MR. BROWN—This includes the best features of both systems.

HON. MR. HOLTON—I will not enter farther into that. I only rose to make the remark I did with reference to the speech of the Hon. Attorney General West in 1861. (Cries of "Go on!") Hon. gentlemen opposite are rather difficult to please. Not long since, when the Hon. President of the Council was not in such good humor as he is just now, he complained that I inflicted myself too often on the House. Now they insist that I shall speak. (Laughter.) I had intended to speak at some length on the general question. I came down to this House this afternoon, intending to speak at some length, but I confess that the view suggested by the Hon. Attorney General West had occurred to me, that it was not desirable on this motion to reopen the whole debate. And when my hon. friend and leader beside me (Hon. Mr. DORION) got up, after I had intimated my intention to speak, and stated, on behalf of those who act with him—and I am a good party man, I follow my leader—that we had no desire to reopen the debate, but wished this matter to be got through to-night, I decided to waive my speech, believing that my views on all points of this scheme are sufficiently well known. (Laughter.) But I beg to assure hon. gentlemen that if on any point of the scheme they have any doubt as to what my views are, I shall answer any questions they may choose to put, as distinctly and as concisely as I can. (Hear, hear.)

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—My honorable friend has correctly stated the intention arrived at by this side of the House. It was not our intention to make any lengthened observations on the motion before the House. But honorable gentlemen opposite have not followed the rule they laid down with respect to this.

HON. MR. BROWN—I did.

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—Well, I think the Honorable President of the Council made a considerable speech to-night, and impressed his conclusions so strongly on the House as almost to drive away any ideas we may have had as to what we should say. (Laughter.) I was rather struck by the manner in which the Honorable Attorney General West took credit to himself for having refrained from insisting on objections on the ground of order to the motion of the honorable member for Peel, after he had declared that he would avail himself of all parliamentary usages to prevent that motion being put. But the honorable gentleman forgets that English