

compulsion that could be brought to bear, would prevent their doing so. The hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. McLAULAY) has accused me of nothing in an important matter, and I have no answer to give him. The Speaker's Chair for some time in the late House, and I cannot see how it can be said that I had departed from parliamentary practice. I am unable to see in what sense I did so. It is a singular application to address the hon. Committee in parliamentary manner. I confess, I feel guilty. Much has been said about Departmental and Responsible Government. I lately read, in a Halifax newspaper, an article on this subject, which defined Responsible Government to be a government according to the well-understood wishes of the people, as expressed through a majority of their Representatives. We then have Responsible Government in its pure form, so long as we have a majority of the Representatives carrying out their wishes. The hon. member for the City also stated that there was nothing in His Excellency's Speech,—that, in the Speech the Government merely followed the policy of the late Administration. What an example the Tories have set, certainly! They laid aside the Land Purchase Bill, which was a Liberal measure, and tried other measures for the purchase of the lands; but, these failing, they finally returned to the original Bill. Does the hon. member think that, because the Conservatives adopted the policy of the Liberals, that that party, in its return to power, is to throw aside that policy, and adopt a new one? We do not, Sir, follow the Conservative party, but merely support a measure brought forward by ourselves,—a measure the best adapted to settle the Land Question, and which has done so to a very great extent. But, Sir, the present Government have been blamed, by some hon. members of the Opposition, for not having waited until the House had risen, before appointing its officers from that body. It was impossible for the Government to work until its principal officers, such as the Colonial Secretary, were appointed; and, I think that my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, would have been rather surprised, had the Government asked him to remain in office after the defeat of his party. I trust that the hon. member for Georgetown (Mr. McLAULAY) will see fit to withdraw the charge of being unparliamentary, which he has brought against me.

Hon. Mr. McLAULAY.—If the hon. member expects me to retract, his hopes, Mr. Chairman, will end in disappointment. When I charged him with being unparliamentary, I did not speak unduly; and, there are now, or were lately, before him, authorities to prove the correctness of what I said. If he is not too indolent to peruse these authorities, he will find that references in course are not allowed in the Imperial Parliament.

Hon. Mr. HAVILAND.—If I had been in my place at the commencement of this debate much discussion might have been saved. The debate, Mr. Chairman, should have been confined to the paragraph now before you, instead of which, we have subjects brought up and discussed which do not even appear in the Address. The hon. member for Charlottetown was right in saying that Confederation was the cause of the delay in holding the late General Election. Her Majesty's Representative, together with his advisers, considered that it was for the interest of the Island to defer the Election as late as possible; that all the information which could be received might be laid before the people at the polls; that they might know the result of the Conference in London, and the principles of the Confederation Bill before the Imperial Parliament. We expected some despatch in answer to the Address sent from this House last year which would contain more than the usual announcement that Her Majesty had received it graciously. On the day of

nomination such a despatch was received and immediately published that the people might read it; and had the Election taken place in the autumn the country would have been in ignorance of many of the facts concerning Confederation. Very probably the reason why some hon. members object to the late Government's having delayed the Election is that they were then anxiously waiting to get into the House; and were therefore impatient of any delay. Some insinuation has been thrown out that the late Government were waiting to set the country. I can tell hon. members,—and my word will, I think, have some weight, for I am pretty well known,—that I was returned by my constituents pledged not to commit the Island to any scheme of Confederation, without first appealing to the people, and I would as soon cut off my hand as allow it to be done. I only hope that hon. members opposite will be as wellable to clear their skirts when they go out of power as I am. I never, Mr. Chairman, heard on the floor of this House such an extraordinary admission as that made by the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) regarding the Queen's Printer's appointment. He actually seemed to me to sing a psalm of joy over that gentleman's defeat. If the hon. member was unwilling to see him in office, he should, I think, have resigned his position as a member of the Executive. By the principles of Responsible Government every member of that body is individually responsible for every appointment, and it is the duty of each of them to defend that appointment when made.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I think I may be allowed to explain my statement in regard to Mr. Whelan's appointment as Queen's Printer. I would have been opposed to his appointment, had I not been aware that, before his first Election, he publicly renounced his opinions on Confederation. When I said that I was glad that the people had now rejected him, I merely meant that I was glad they had done so, if they did not consider him sincere in the pledges which he had given.

Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.—I omitted, Mr. Chairman, to remind my hon. colleague, who so strongly condemned the action of the late Government in sending for the troops, that the Opposition of last Session, with the exception of two hon. members, approved of the step taken by the Conservative Administration in that matter.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON.—During the Debate, reference has been made to me personally, as a member of the late Government, and an insinuation has been made against that Government, for which I consider it my duty to demand something more than an assertion. The hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) has stated that the late Government had called the soldiers into the Island, with the intention of forcing the Island into Confederation. Can he produce any proof—anything like proof—for that statement? Does he mean to say that his Honor the Chief Justice, who was at that time Administrator of the Government, would consent to anything like that? Repudiate the statement, and hand it back to the gentleman for proof. I admit that, perhaps preliminary steps, on the part of the civil power, were not used in time, and I will give you no opinion now contrary to the opinion which I held when in the Government. I do not wish to occupy the time of this hon. Committee; but, when the integrity of the late Government is called in question, I consider it my duty to defend them. I say, then, that the hon. member for Belfast (Mr. Davies) has given no proof, except his bare assertion—that such was the motive of the late Government, in calling the Troops. I regret that this subject has been brought forward. I would be one of the last to mention it. Some gentlemen have referred to the fact that my hon. and learned