

contest, the announcement fell on that vast assembly like a great calamity. The reason why Mr. Palmer did not run was that he did not wish to expend a great deal of money in contesting the election.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—Did his colleague mean to say money had any influence in carrying an election in Westmorland?

**MR. GILBERT.**—He believed the constituency of Westmorland was as pure as any in the Province.

He would now come to another charge against the Government. If he had no other reason for giving the Government his opposition, the mode they had adopted in their appointment to the Judicial Bench would be sufficient. Without saying a word in disparagement of Judge Ritchie, he held that the exercise of their prerogative, in appointing him to the position of Chief Justice and passing over Judge Wilnot, was unjust. Judge Wilnot had done great service for his country, and he deserved better treatment from their hands. In years gone by, when this Province lay under the rule of an oligarchy, and its dignities and its offices were monopolized by the system of family compactism that then prevailed, he remembered well hearing within the walls of this legislative hall, that system of Government denounced by the present Judge Wilnot. By the powers of his great eloquence, and the daring and straightforward course he pursued, he succeeded in introducing into this Province the system of Departmental and Responsible Government it now enjoyed. In the profession, his abilities as a lawyer had been derided, because he would not bring down his great mind to the petty technical details. But in his grasp of the great principles of law, though he might be equalled by some, he was surpassed by none. If the Government had gone outside the Bench and appointed some member of the profession to the position, he would have said nothing. But having gone to the Bench to make the appointment of Chief Justice, they ought to have taken the Judge by seniority, and appointed Judge Wilnot as being the senior puisne Judge of the Province.

He felt bound to tell the Government that one of the Commissioners of the Railway had now in his hands from £500 to £600 of the money of the Province, which had not been accounted for. He meant Mr. Scovil, and he alluded to the purchase by him of the House known as the Adams House, which property he had purchased for the Government from Mr. Turner, and which had been sold by Mr. Scovil at the suit of Mrs. Bell, and the proceeds used to discharge a private debt owed by him to her. He was sorry to be obliged to mention this, and to drag the name of Mr. Scovil (who was brother-in-law to his hon. colleague) before the public; but he felt it his duty to bring the matter up, as the Government ought to have taken action by this time, and had the money refunded. The loss occasioned to the Province, as appeared from the public accounts of the present year, on account of this transaction, was no less a sum than \$1,857 47, being the deficiency after crediting the Province for the amount for which the property had been sold. That amount was more than half the amount expended on by-roads for the County of Westmorland during the last year.

At the beginning of the debate a great deal had been said of the endeavor made in the Province during the excitement

of the last election, and the alarm raised by the Fenian movement to set class against class, creed against creed, and to prejudice the Roman Catholics in the minds of the Protestant community. For his own part, he believed that if any difficulty arose that would call upon the inhabitants to defend their Province against invasion, there was no class who would answer the call to arms more readily, or defend their homes and fire-sides more bravely, than that class through whose veins Celtic blood flowed, for the Irishman was loyal to his heart's core; he was loyal to his religion, and he was loyal to his Queen, loyal to the country of his birth, and to his country by adoption.

Mr. Gilbert then concluded by saying that it was his intention to vote for the amendment.

**Hon. Mr. BOTSFORD** had not intended to make any remarks on the subject which now engrossed the attention of the House, as it had already been so fully debated, and he had not yet quite recovered from a severe attack of sickness, but he reluctantly felt compelled to offer some observations in reference to the charges preferred against the Department over which he presided, and if, in the heat of debate, anything should fall from him calculated to wound the feelings of any hon. member of the House, he would deeply regret it; but he could not subscribe to the proposition of Mr. Williston, when he deprecated the personalities used by the speakers who had preceded him in this debate, excusing the members of the Opposition and attaching all the blame to the members of the Government and its supporters. Mr. Botsford would ask Mr. W. who first made the attack? the terms, "mean, low political pigmies," "traitors," &c., freely used by the Opposition, could not but call forth a corresponding response, and arouse the strongest feelings of indignation in the members of the Government to which he belonged.

Before entering on the discussion of the charges made against his Department, he would refer to some of the charges and gross personal attacks made by the hon. member who preceded him, and he had listened with astonishment at the unfair and unmanly attacks made by him on the private character of a gentleman who was not here to defend himself, and which he considered a gross slander. He alluded to the charge of embezzlement against R. C. Scovil, Esq., a gentleman of high standing, respectability and integrity, and which charges Mr. Gilbert would not have dared to utter in the County where he resides, and he could only tell that hon. gentleman that Mr. Scovil's character would in no way be injured by such assertions, for Mr. Scovil stood as far above him in Westmorland as the beams of the noonday sun outshine those of the moon.

That hon. member has stated that he was elected to oppose any union with the Canadas, and that the Quebec Scheme was not the test question at the last general election. Mr. Botsford's constituents in Westmorland are quite conversant with the platform on which the members were then returned, and the principles they were pledged to maintain, and it will be interesting to trace Mr. Gilbert's inconsistent conduct from the late general election up to the

present time. Every one knows that the present Government was formed expressly on the principle of antagonism to the Quebec Scheme, and when his honor the Speaker was proposed for that office by the hon. member for Charlotte, Mr. McClellan, a strong Confederate and supporter of the Quebec Scheme, was nominated in opposition, and Mr. Gilbert's vote is to be found recorded on the Journals against the present Speaker, and thereby ignoring the very principle he had solemnly pledged himself to maintain. We next find that when the address in answer to the speech last session was under consideration, he made a violent onslaught on the Government and their policy, notwithstanding they had only been a few days in office; then again when the Militia Bill, brought in by the late Attorney General (Judge Allen), was discussed, we find his hon. colleague in direct opposition to the Government, and voting against the main principle of the Bill. The only measure that met the approval of Mr. Gilbert was the resolution authorizing a delegation to proceed to England, for the purpose of counteracting any false impression made on the British Government by the Canadians, which Mr. G. thought was fully justified at that time, but now states that he recalls that vote for the flimsy reason that a despatch received after his vote, and only a few days before the close of the session, was not published. It reminded him of the Irishman and his pig, which Paddy was driving to a neighbor who had bought him. After a good deal of difficulty, Paddy succeeded in getting him on the right road. As he was proceeding along the road, he met a neighbor, who accosted him and asked where he was going. Paddy said to Mr. Calcroft's, a contrary way to that which he was in; his neighbor replied he was wrong, he was in the road to Mr. Bandon's, the person who had bought the pig. "Whist!" says Paddy, "if the contrary devil hears that he will go the wrong way." And so Mr. Gilbert when he finds that he has once been on the right road, like Paddy's pig, will take the other. My hon. colleague says that when he saw the memorable minute of Council which has caused so much excitement, and has been styled insulting to the British Government, he highly approved of it, and endorsed every word. That Minute of Council was written when the Hon. Mr. Smith was in England, and the Government had done nothing since to offend Mr. Gilbert; but when the leader of the Government, after much solicitation, accepted the Attorney Generalship, and he had to return to his constituents. We next find Mr. Gilbert heading an opposition to defeat him. Circulars were addressed to every leading Confederate in Westmorland, requesting their attendance at the office of Mr. Steadman, one of the defeated candidates, and a strong advocate of the Quebec Scheme. Mr. Gilbert was chairman of the meeting (which he denies, but admits he was at it), A. L. Palmer, Esq., a defeated Confederate candidate before, was nominated at the opening of the poll, and Mr. Gilbert will remember the failure of his attempt to reply to the Attorney General, before about 2,000 of his constituents, and the indignant rumblings then heard were a sufficient warning of what