

Coby

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AL/13

It has probably come to the notice of my colleagues that, in a division early this morning, which was known to be vital to the Franchise Bill and to the Government, three of its members abstained from voting.

Preliminary intimation had been given to this effect, and some effort had been made to bring about a different intention. This change of mind was looked for, but no question of surprise can be raised.

It is however an elementary rule, necessary for the cohesion & character of Administrations, that on certain questions, & notably on questions vital to their existence their members should vote together. In the event of their not doing so, their intention to quit the Government is presumed, & in all ordinary circumstances ought to take effect.

At the present moment, however, beside the charge of a great legislative measure, and an ever increasing mass of other business, the Ministry is rapidly approaching a crisis on a question of foreign affairs which involves principles of the deepest importance not only to the welfare of Egypt but to the character & honour of the country, & to the law

the council, & possibly even the peace of Lancashire -

It w^d be most unfortunate, were the minds of men at such a juncture to be disturbed by the resignation of a Cabinet Minister, & of two other gentlemen holding offices of great importance, on a question which important as it is relates mainly to the internal discipline & management of the official corps.

I therefore propose to my colleagues that I be authorised to request of the President of the Local Gov^t Board, the Postmaster General, & the Secretary of the Treasury, that they will do us the favour to retain their respective offices.

(Signed) W. R. Lubbock

June 13. 1854

President of Local Gov^t Bd^y Dilke
Secretary of the Treasury Courtenay