

carrying out his own principles conscientiously, he shot directly into the back of the Premier on the question of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Bill. I also remember that he, neglectful of that same solidarity of party, and without that same sense of party duty and obligation of which he now speaks, when we charged the Premier with having been guilty of a breach of the law during his fit of temporary independence, went, when the vote was being called for, out of one door, Mr. Justice Moss out of the other, and the Minister of the Interior out of another. These gentlemen chose rather to sacrifice their duty to their leader than their duty to their consciences, and now feel what a respect the hon. the Premier has for them, for the independence they showed, and for their neglect of their solidarity, by giving them situations under him. It is, therefore, rather hard that the hon. member for South Bruce should attack my friends for acting regardless of the obligations of party. The hon. gentleman said that I voted for the Supreme Court Bill because I fathered it, although the child was not mine. I do not think it was exactly wise of the hon. member for South Bruce to say that. He alludes to the fact that a fee was paid to Mr. Justice Strong, who was counsel for settling that Bill. The hon. gentleman surely knows that in England every Bill that is drawn by the Government is settled by the Parliamentary counsel, who are employed for that purpose. He should know that Sir Henry Thring makes £20,000 a year, and Sir Wm. Ryley makes £10,000 a year as Parliamentary counsel. Mr. Thomas Holland, counsel for the Colonial Office, settles all the Colonial Office legislation. At the time the British North America Act was settled, the Colonial Office handed that measure over to the consideration of Sir Wm. Ryley altogether. So that even had it been true that the Supreme Court Bill had been drawn by Mr. Strong, the Government of which I was a member would have the same right to claim that measure as Mr. Gladstone would have to claim the merit, as he does claim it, of being the author of the Act for the disestablishment of the Church of England in Ireland, although he never settled one

single line or clause in that Act. But I stated in my place, when this question was up before, that that Bill was settled by myself and Mr. Archibald, now the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, and was submitted to Mr. Strong, whose great ability has been recognized by the Government, which made him a Supreme Court Judge, and by myself before that, in making him a Judge in the Court of Chancery in Ontario. Besides that, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that I received suggestions from many Judges, and from very many other persons, and I was glad to get them. But the Government of which I was a member and myself were responsible for that measure, and we have a right to claim, in the same way as the Premier claimed it, when the Government was charged last summer with the paucity of its legislative enactments, the credit for it; for did not Mr. Fournier state, in his place in the House, that he would scarcely have had the courage to introduce the Bill if he had not had the assistance of the measure left by his predecessors? I do not propose to enter into a discussion about the merits of the Supreme Court Bill. That question is now a matter of law, and, if the Parliament hereafter thinks proper to deal differently with the subject, and remove every obstruction in the way of the appeal to England, it will do so. I still think that link, that privilege of appealing to the Throne, is a golden link. I think that the fact that every subject of Her Majesty can appeal to the foot of the Throne is a great privilege, and it is a wholesome check on our colonial Judges, without any disparagement to them. It builds up one mighty connection, from the Crown, the head of the law, of the Church, and the nation, down to the Courts in every colony. I think it is a golden link, and, if I did not think that I should, perhaps, be trespassing on the patience of the House, as the hon. member for South Bruce has to-night, I would be quite ready to defend that opinion now. The time, I dare say, will come when I shall have an opportunity of doing it. Perhaps it will not, for, although I participate in my hon. friend's wish for an early appeal to the people, I may have the misfortune of disappearing