

THE SENATE.

Ottawa, January 24th, 1884.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 o'clock.

Prayers and Routine proceedings.

THE ADDRESS.

THE DEBATE CONCLUDED.

The order of the day having been called,

"Resuming adjourned Debate on the Address to His Excellency the Governor-General in answer to His Excellency's Speech on opening the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament."

HON. MR. BELLEROSE said—Yesterday, when the hon. Minister of Justice called upon me to move the adjournment of the debate, I was answering a gentleman who had interrupted me to explain that his views and mine were not in accord. While he felt himself in duty bound to sacrifice his country for the love of his friend, I thought that the reverse principle should prevail, and that a man should always be ready to sacrifice a friend to save his country. I will leave it to hon. gentlemen who are within reach of my voice to judge between the gentleman who interrupted me and myself. If a friend of mine would consent to betray his country, should friendship force me to become a traitor also, in order to save my friend? This is not the way I understand patriotism and friendship. I may be wrong, but I honestly acknowledge that I prefer to follow the adage that the first thing for a lover of his country is to save it: *salus populi suprema lex est*. I repeat, then, that I am a friend of Mr. Mousseau, and I have shown it, for though he became Prime Minister in Quebec last year in an unconstitutional way, and though this, perhaps, was enough to prove that he came there to continue Mr. Chapleau's work, yet his political programme, as distributed throughout the Province, being a good one, I did give him my support and fought for him at the polls. But when it was revealed that at the very time he was making those promises he had begun the evil work in Quebec, when it was dis-

covered that not only had he followed in the footsteps of his predecessor, but had even done worse, and the Province was going to ruin, then I thought I ought to oppose him, and try to save my Province, so I went to work. Others joined me; we have succeeded, and Mr. Mousseau, like his predecessor, has been forced to resign the Premiership in Quebec. Now, if rumor be true, he is to be appointed, perhaps is already appointed, a Judge of the Superior Court in his Province. Last year Sir John himself admitted that he could not appoint Mr. Mousseau in view of the circumstances under which he was then placed, as I made known to this House in the following words:—

"According to those rumors Mr. Mousseau received last year, when he left Ottawa, to become Premier of Quebec, and to induce him to accept the exchange proposed by the then Prime Minister of Quebec and now the Secretary of State for Canada, a promise from a certain member of the present Cabinet that in leaving the Premiership of Quebec, he would be raised to the bench. But that this hon. gentleman having since been forced to resign his seat in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, on account of the evidence brought against him, in the case of his contested election, for personal bribery and corruption, he had been told in Ottawa that, after such a charge had been laid against him and proof given to such an extent that he himself had considered it necessary to resign his seat and so force his adversaries to discontinue the contest, the Government could not be justified in appointing him a Judge; but that if he could be re-elected and so whitewashed of his guilt, it would probably give the Government a chance to make the appointment.

Such are the rumors.

Now it seems to me to be impossible that the Government of this country, or any of their members now in Ottawa, could have made such a promise or even expressed such an opinion under the circumstances. Let me quote the evidence produced before the court in the case of Mr. Mousseau's contested election.

One of the most devoted supporters of Mr. Mousseau's Government, *Le Canadien* in its issue of the 5th May, 1883, states:

The following despatch, the importance of which it is not necessary for us to call attention to, was transmitted to us, last night, by the wires.

Though publishing it we do not mean to guarantee its correctness:—

MONTREAL, 4th May.

* * * * *
It seems that the Premier (Mr. Mousseau) has been forced to this supreme determination (resigning his seat) by the grave statements of a hotel-keeper of Lachine, of the name of Leger. This witness acknowledged that the