

HON. MR. GOWAN—I was present at that meeting and heard what took place.

HON. SIR DAVID MACPHERSON—I do not intend to trespass on the time of the House to-day more than to give an unqualified denial to every statement which the hon. gentleman has made which in any way impugns my integrity or honor. I simply repeat here that I had nothing whatever to do with the bill to which he refers—nothing to do with its inception or settlement. Its settlement appears, from the evidence produced here to-day, to have been full and complete, but if it had not been so, I would not have been responsible, legally or morally, to the extent of one cent. I never had anything to do with it, and as I stated here the other day, I simply accepted a seat upon the Bank board at the instance of the Government of the day, to check loans by the Bank of Upper Canada, and when I found that I could not do that effectually, I retired. That was my whole connection with the bank. The hon. gentleman is not content with slandering those who are here to defend themselves, but he insinuates everything that is dishonorable against gentlemen who are not here. He spoke of Sir Alexander Galt as having been interested in this bill of exchange—as having been my partner—

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—Every one knows it.

HON. SIR DAVID MACPHERSON—Sir Alex. Galt was my partner from 1852 to 1856, when he and the late Mr. Holton, who was also my partner at that time, both retired from the firm. They both made up their minds that they would give their attention to public affairs. They were very well qualified for that position, and they devoted themselves to public life for a long time—Sir Alex. Galt generally in office, Mr. Holton in office for a time, and then in Opposition. Both were very active public men, as all who hear me know. Mr. Holton, whoever knew him will say, was the soul of honor. Sir Alex. Galt is the same, and to say that he was influenced as Minister of Finance by anything that took place years before when he was my

partner, is an unmitigated and cruel slander.

HON. MR. ALEXANDER—I make no charge against Sir Alex. Galt.

HON. SIR DAVID MACPHERSON—I cannot understand any man who is responsible for his words making such a statement. Is it surprising that men in this country, of sensitive feeling, are unwilling to enter into public life when they are exposed to shafts such as have been hurled at myself and other gentlemen here, and at some who are not present to defend themselves? Is it surprising when they are exposed to the shafts of envious men, of disappointed men, of men who have been political failures, and of malignant cranks—is it surprising that they should shrink from public life? I shall not trespass longer on the time of the House. I felt called upon to give an unqualified denial to all that the hon. gentleman said of an injurious character against myself and against the friends whom I have named.

HON. MR. PLUMB—I do not think that this matter ought to pass without some further consideration. We have had on two occasions recently the most extraordinary exhibitions ever seen in this Chamber. An hon. gentleman, responsible as a member of this House, has brought before us charges of the gravest character, and he has repeated those charges, and I believe he has repeated them not only on the floor of this House, but elsewhere, and instead of bringing to the Senate any sort of evidence on which to found those charges, he has shown himself to be totally unacquainted with the transactions upon which he claims they are based. Although he has been a director of the banking institution to which he refers, he has not even looked at the minute book of the bank to see who were the directors who preceded him—who are perfectly well known to have preceded him. All he had to do was to turn to the books to ascertain, but he did not then know, and has lately discovered that one of the gentlemen he has accused of foul transactions in connection with the bank had been a member of the