

HON. MR. PLUMB—What paper is it from?

HON. MR. McCLELAN—The *Patriot*.

HON. MR. PLUMB—It is a bad authority.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—It is from a report of a meeting held at Alberton, 5th September, 1878. It says that Senator Howlan made a telling speech; that he said he was always a free trader, and is one yet. "Like others, he supposed, he had a right to change his opinions on this question, but he had not changed his. (Hear.)"

A further and fuller report of the meeting at Alberton, published on the 7th September, 1878, states:—

"After others had spoken, and in answer to loud and repeated calls, Senator Howlan took the floor, and upon stating that he had only come to listen, proceeded, amidst loud applause, to declare himself a free trader. He entered briefly into the state of affairs in Canada, showing that absolute free trade, as understood in England, was not possible in Canada, and no public men thought of it."

HON MR. PLUMB—Hear, hear!

HON. MR. McCLELAN, continuing—

"He considered the tariff as already sufficiently high, and deprecated meddling with it, as tending to destroy the confidence needed to encourage commerce."

HON. MR. POWER—Hear, hear!

HON. MR. McCLELAN, continuing—

"He considered protection a curse to any country. He had always been a free trader, and was so still, although this was the first opportunity he had to declare his views during this campaign. He expected to be called to account for these remarks in another place, and he was prepared for it."

HON. MR. SCOTT—This is the place.

HON. MR. McCLELAN, continuing—

"While Mr. Pope and others had changed their views, he had not done so. Mr. Howlan ridiculed the notion of reciprocal free trade and said we might as well talk musical free trade, or any other free trade; the phrase was meaningless. He entered at length into the question, exposing the fallacy of the protect-

ionist argument, and fortified his position by many telling illustrations. Mr. Howlan spoke forcibly, and was frequently interrupted by bursts of applause."

HON. MR. POWER—He always does.

HON. MR. McCLELAN continuing—

"After a lively passage at arms between Messrs. F. F. White, and Mr. Hackett, the following resolution was proposed by Benjamin Rogers, Esq., seconded by Captain M. Foley;—

"Whereas this meeting having confidence in the trade policy of the Government, therefore—

"Resolved that this meeting will support the two government candidates—Messrs. Yeo and Perry at the coming election, and will use every legitimate means to secure their return to the Dominion House of Commons.

"On the vote, two only were found to oppose the resolution, out of an audience of about 150, and with three cheers for the free trade candidates, and three more for the free trade Senator, the meeting which was well attended and remarkably orderly adjourned."

The report was signed S. P. Fielding, secretary.

HON. MR. HOWLAN—With regard to the report of that meeting, I have always denied its accuracy and repudiated the statements attributed to me. But suppose I had entertained those opinions, there is no good reason why I should not change them from the logic of events. No public man should be bound by a newspaper report like that.

HON. MR. DICKEY—In an election campaign.

HON. MR. McCLELAN—I remember reading his remarks at that time, and I recognized him with delight, as being a champion of the principles I maintain. I quite conceive the applause which greeted my hon. friend on that occasion. According to the old Latin proverb, the hon. gentleman, upon his own ground, ought to have made an excellent fight. I know from his ability, from his fluency and his eloquence, the meeting was electrified, as is evident from the enormous vote. It is a compliment to the hon. gentleman's power of persuasion and the force of his argument, and his ability, at any rate upon the stump, that such a remarkable result,