

ance, and which challenged the most serious and the strongest reply that the hon. gentleman could make. We shall see as we go through, item by item of the hon. gentleman's speech whether he has met them as we would have wished the leader of a great and strong Government, by its own professions and claims, including all the talents and all the virtues, should have met them. He complained of the bitter spirit in which my hon. friend couched his language. Now, Sir, there have been times when I think even I could trace just a little amount of acid, of acrimony, of bitterness in the attacks which my hon. friend has, from time to time, delivered upon the Liberal position, but I must say that during the two hours he spoke yesterday I looked in vain for a trace of bitterness. It did not exist in my hon. friend's speech. The reason for it the hon. gentleman gave. Here, he said, is a gentleman who left a high and lucrative position, who might have been to-day enjoying the sweets of office. He came over with an ambition to lead his party to victory in a great electoral contest, and to lead his party after victory, if victory should perch upon his banner. But he failed, and defeat came instead of victory, and therefore the hon. gentleman tries to find the bitterness of defeat in the words my hon. friend used. My hon. friend cannot grasp the situation; he knows that men on his side would have felt that bitterness under like circumstances. But men on the hon. gentleman's side were too canny, and they calculated the possibilities too closely to have left high and lucrative offices and risked all upon the cast of the electoral die. The whilom Premier of the province of Ontario, when approached by all those arts of flattery which the hon. leader of the Government possesses in so high a degree, to take the perilous jump into the vortex of a contested election with his party banner and his party chances within his grasp, was too canny to so act. He preferred to keep the office he held as Premier of the great province of Ontario, with his comfortable salary, with his still more comfortable patronage—of which the hon. gentleman is said to have made such good use in years that have passed—and determined that he would not place his political life in the balance and throw all into an electoral contest. Then there is an hon. gentleman sitting to the left of the First Minister, who was Premier of the province of Nova Scotia, and who, in 1893, by the unanimous consent of all those who toiled in that hot month of June or July in the convention at Ottawa, was marked out and designated as a minister of the Cabinet that was to come. He did not undertake to put his life into the balance, but he held comfortably on to his comfortable office and stayed there until the results of the elections were told and then when he saw on which side of the fence the straw was piled, he made his little jump and landed as Finance Minister in the Cabinet

of to-day. And there is still another, not yet either to the right or left of the hon. leader of the Government.

An hon. MEMBER. He will be here tomorrow.

Mr. FOSTER. He to-day is fighting for his very life in a constituency in the province of New Brunswick. He was one of the two noble friends, the fratres marked out by the divine fire as coming members in the Ministry that was some time to be, which should include all the virtues and all the talents. That hon. gentleman did not propose to throw his life into the balance, either, but he kept comfortably on, at his comfortable salary, and with his comfortable patronage until he saw which of the dishes had the thickest cream, and then he landed down by the side of the richest, and he is to-day fighting, as I have said, for his life in a contest which he bewails, and which hon. gentlemen opposite would rather had not come on. No, the hon. gentleman and the hon. gentleman's colleagues, whatever you may say against them or for them, will never be open to the imputation that they are not canny, that they take their lives in their hands and that they risk all for their party fortunes and in their party's behalf. The hon. leader of the Government was good enough to inform this House, and I am sure the information came quite unexpectedly on the House, and fell, I am afraid, on incredulous ears on this side of the Speaker, that an earthquake had occurred in Canada, and as the result of the earthquake the hon. gentleman and his party were landed to the right of Mr. Speaker, and further that it shook all Canada, and that the saints were shaken up and the sinners were shaken down. Well, my hon. friend if he is going to use scripture for his similes, must read scripture thoroughly, and he will find out of it that it is not proof of the innocence of a man or a party that for the time being he or it happens to come out on the upper side. There is a verse, I think, something like this: "Or those eighteen upon whom the tower of Siloam fell and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?" And the answer to that question was: "No; but unless ye also repent ye shall all likewise perish." Now, Sir, did this earthquake take place? That earthquake, in the sense of the hon. gentleman's rendition of it, it did not take place in the tight little province of Prince Edward Island. If it did, it shook them out on the other side, for in the island the party opposite have lost rather than gained. Was the earthquake very severe in the province of Nova Scotia?

An hon. MEMBER. Rather.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman could not come out of the contest with a majority, notwithstanding the close combination of provincial and Dominion authority and pat-