

importance in the Empire. He was at different times Minister Plenipotentiary at different courts of Europe—Russia, Turkey, Italy and France, and was afterwards Viceroy of India. There is this to be said of Lord Dufferin, that he was generous to a fault. I think he was a poorer man the day he left Canada than he was the day he arrived—that is, I think the allowance paid him here was expended in generous hospitality with a free and open hand, and with the liberality he displayed at all times. However, he set a very good example, which, I am happy to say, has been very freely followed by those who have succeeded him.

My hon. friend's criticisms on the address, are, on the whole, rather moderate. He refers to several omissions, which I should note, and he took occasion to pass over a little chaff as to my position in this Chamber. As he knows, I have had no very great ambition to be first at any time. I am glad to-day to assist the party to which I belong in administering public affairs either in this Chamber or outside of it.

The hon. gentleman has also referred to a circumstance that has on many occasions been thrown across the floor of this House at me, that I changed my political opinions. It has been made so often and I have remained silent under it, that probably this moment may be a favourable opportunity for giving some very short explanation. I do not care, as a rule, about talking of myself, but as the statement has been made that I had, for some consideration or other, changed my political opinions, I think it is only fair that the House should understand my position. I began life as a Liberal, as a boy and as a man, when I commenced my profession in the year 1848. At that time the exciting question was the Rebellion Losses Bill. I was on the platform moving a resolution in support of Lord Elgin, who had then signed the Rebellion Losses Bill, when we were attacked by a body of the Conservative party, and put to rout. I continued to be allied to the Liberal party until the year 1857. It so happened that it was committed to my care to take charge of various claims of cities to be considered suitable places for the capital of Canada. I prepared the papers, and had charge of the application of Ottawa. After the decision was given, the Liberal party as a body

denounced the selection. In the session of 1857-58 the vote against Ottawa was carried by a large majority. Sir John Macdonald took up the Queen's decision and stuck loyally by it. I represented the city of Ottawa, and certainly I should not have been doing my duty if I had not adhered to the government in so important a matter as the selection of this city in carrying out the Queen's decision.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—That is, the defeat of the appropriation of fifty thousand pounds to begin the work—that is the question on which Sir John Macdonald was defeated.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, it was on a square vote. First, Mr. Piché moved that Ottawa should not be the seat of government. That is the first vote that was given. Several places were voted on, and he moved a direct vote that Ottawa was not a suitable place for the seat of government, and the vote was carried. It dropped there, and for a whole year there was just that uncertainty about it. The following year, accompanied by some other gentlemen, I waited on Sir John Macdonald and the government at Toronto, and asked them whether they were prepared to take up the question and stand by it. They said they were, and they made up their minds to do so. A paragraph was introduced in the address announcing that policy, that they were prepared to stand by it. Recollect, before that they had resigned, and what was called the Brown-Dorion government was formed in succession to it. However, the following session, 1859, a paragraph was put in the Speech, binding the government to stand by the Queen's decision. We only carried it then with great difficulty by five votes. Certainly I should have been recreant to my duty if I had not adhered to Sir John Macdonald after that, and I did so until Confederation. My relations with Sir John Macdonald were always of a very pleasant character, even after I united myself in Ontario with Blake and Mackenzie. It may be an unnecessary thing to state, but as so many observations have been made in the last fifteen or twenty years in this Chamber chaffing me about it, I have taken this opportunity to speak of a personal matter. It is a bit of Canadian history that should not be forgotten.