

suddenly he was tumbled out of, turned out of, and dismissed, from that office—and for what purpose? Why, the exigencies of the Government of Nova Scotia came again to the fore. Mr. Weeks was offered a seat in the Local Government, and a vacancy was needed to carry out the designs of these gentlemen. A seat was wanted for him as Attorney-General, and a vacant seat was purchased by appointing the member for Guysboro' to that office created by the Government of the Dominion. This was rendered vacant by the expulsion from that position of the gentleman whom they themselves had appointed to it, and a member of the Local Legislature was placed in it, and even when the local Attorney-General went to run the election in that county, we found that again the power of the Crown had been exercised. He could not be elected, and we found the leader of the Opposition in that county suddenly in the ranks of the hon. gentleman opposite, in return for a high office conferred upon him by the Dominion Government. And I say that if the hon. gentleman wants evidence, not only of an alliance with the Local Government of the clearest and most unqualified, and also of the most corrupt character, the records of the Province of Nova Scotia and their dealings with this Government, furnish the most abundant and undoubted evidence of it. Well, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. the First Minister, whether he considers, with the knowledge before him, that the seats for Digby and Halifax must be vacated—of the fact of these gentlemen having received an immense amount of public money,—I would ask the hon. gentleman whether he thinks it was a just or correct thing for a Government professing such exalted purity and such an exalted standard of public morality, to keep a Minister in that position with the evidence before him furnished by a Committee on which half-a-dozen members of the Government were to be found, that his seat was void. Yet they kept that gentleman and one of his colleagues in the Cabinet until the issue of the writ followed so closely upon the meeting

of Parliament as to make it impossible to apply the law in relation to those elections, in addition to the opportunity thus afforded for the use of illegitimate means in carrying the election. There is one other reason which I can suppose influenced the hon. gentleman, and that was this: they found it convenient to issue the writ contemporaneously with the time when the citizens of Halifax, when every man, woman and child in Halifax who had any intelligence, were eagerly and anxiously struggling to secure the advantage to Halifax of being the winter freight port, and the merchants were negotiating with this Government for it, so that if the hon. gentleman wants evidence of the power of the Crown having been used in this regard, I think that he will find it in his own statements as a candidate on the hustings, with relation to this vital question that every person of all parties felt the deepest interest in.

Mr. MILLS: What about the case of the hon. member for Northumberland.

Mr. TUPPER: I do not know what the case of the hon. member for Northumberland has to do with it.

Mr. MITCHELL: Allow me to answer, and I will soon tell the hon. gentleman what it had to do with it. My public card informs the country of the reason why the member for Northumberland delayed his resignation. It was because he felt it to be the duty of the First Minister, with forty seats affected and with the names of forty gentlemen so assailed in this House, to have purified the House, and in accordance with his principles, gone to the country. This was the only reason why I delayed my resignation so long. I delayed it until I saw there was no hope for it; and there is a gentleman in this House, a leading member, who supports the hon. the leader of the Government who knows that my conviction as late as last July was that the House would be dissolved, and my conviction was so strong that I was prepared to stake something more than an opinion on it, and I am looking at that gentleman now.