

a grossly insulting and libellous letter to a writer who happened not to be in the country and publish it in their party organ. After the publication of that letter we might perhaps have been warranted in leaving the matter where it stood. Special notice was hardly due to a volley of personal abuse, discharged moreover against the wrong object. The statements of the *Globe*, to which we referred, were perfectly explicit and circumstantial, and were supported by documentary evidence produced in a public law suit. Nor were the facts on which our remarks were based denied at the time of the occurrence, either by the party organ, which could do little more than cry *tu quoque*, or by the Prime Minister, when the charge of "trading on and speculating in their influence with the administration" was brought against the firm in Parliament by Mr. Malcolm Cameron. The Prime Minister touched only two or three transactions, leaving the general case untouched. However, we have caused inquiry to be made at Winnipeg, as we said we would. Some of the sources of information which were open to the *Globe* at the time are now closed against us. Still we have what we consider abundant evidence, documentary and of other kinds, before us. We never said or meant to imply that any department of Government had been corrupted or approached with improper language. It is not alleged that even Mr. Rykert ever bribed an official, or introduced himself formally as a member of Parliament demanding of Government the price of his support. Nor did we in simply recording the denials of Messrs. Macdonald and Tupper in the Rykert case mean to imply any doubt of their veracity, but, on the contrary, to accept their disclaimer without question. But subject to these remarks we are prepared to maintain that the statement of the case in the *Globe* was substantially true and that in partly reproducing it we did no wrong. We say this without the slightest misgiving. "I think," says a former member of the firm in reply to a legal interrogatory, "the (timber) limits were gotten from the position Macdonald and Tupper (held) apart from their being lawyers."