

made several errors. First, I was not on board of a steamer. The vessel that I had the honour to command was a sailing vessel, built after the celebrated *America*, now owned by General Butler, perhaps the finest vessel in the world. A picture of *La Canadienne* can be seen in the library of this Parliament, and I may be allowed to say, having been her Commander for so long, and having found the vessel such a faithful friend, that the tallness of her masts, the great spread of her wide sails, and her fine lines, made her very fit for the service which she performed—a difficult and important service, the service which was composed of cruising all the time, day and night, to protect the fisheries, and to prevent evil-doers from doing evil. Now, Mr. Speaker, it is not of the vessel that I wish to speak. It is of its officers and its crew and of myself, because, in those few words, we are attacked; we are attacked not violently, perhaps not willingly, but, Mr. Speaker, we are attacked in our honour. The officers and the men that I had the honour to command were submitted to the same discipline as on board of men-of-war—if there was a difference, it was more strict—and those men understood what honour was, what duty was, what truth was, and, when those men were commanded to do a duty, day or night, in good weather or bad weather, they went to work and obeyed without reluctance in any way. Now, it is I who am specially attacked in this speech, and the people of this country, and perhaps the people of other countries where the speech of the hon. gentleman may be read, will suppose that I do not know the difference between a porpoise and a shark. Sir, I hold in my hand, printed reports for thirteen years in which reports I have described minutely eighty-three species of marine animals and fishes, and I think that hon. gentlemen and the public generally who know how long and hard I worked in describing these fishes, will believe that I can make a distinction between a porpoise and a shark. Now, Sir, as regards the discipline on the vessel which the hon. gentleman made the subject of his remarks. I will repeat, there was rigid discipline on board, and the men had great regard for truth and honour, and all the qualities of gentlemen. I think if I had been in the place of the hon. gentleman who spoke, and wanted to prove that there was good discipline among the sailors and that they were men of truth and honour, I would have contented myself with saying that the Commander, while in a state, I may say, of distractedness, saw a porpoise being hauled on board his vessel and he called it a shark, and asked his men and officers to call it a shark too; and I would have said that the men and the officers, out of regard for truth and honour, said it was not a shark but a porpoise. That is what the hon. gentleman might have said. I do not wish to speak at length on this subject. I rose not only to defend myself but to defend the officers and men who served under me for thirteen years—men who did their duty to their country under the flag which floated over their heads; men who did their duty in time of peace and who would have done their duty as well in time of war; men who would have stood to their guns and defended the flag of this country as their forefathers did before them. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think I have said enough, first to prove that the remark of the hon. member was altogether erroneous, and that if those who in this House or in the country, wish to sneer at the old Commander of *La Canadienne* and her officers and sailors, let them first go round the Gulf of the St. Lawrence and question the mariners who have seen us, and the fishermen who received help from us, as to the manner in which we performed our duty. I might also appeal to that hon. gentleman under whom I then served, and who is now a member of this House, when he was Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I was ordered to go and report myself to the then newly appointed Minister of Marine the moment Confederation took place, and I went up the River Mirami-

chi amongst strangers to me and to my men; and I would like that hon. gentleman who has seen us at work, to be pleased to tell this House and the country how we performed our duty.

Mr. HAGGART. Before the House passes to the next item on the paper, I wish to make a few explanations to my hon. friend—personal explanations to Commodore Fortin as a question of privilege. I may state to my hon. friend that I had not the slightest intention in the world of saying anything uncomplimentary to him in the remarks which I made in the House the other evening—far less had I any intention to say anything uncomplimentary to the officers and men of *La Canadienne*. I said, in all seriousness, what I said at that time, that I believed that their efficiency was undoubted, that a state of discipline existed which was complimentary to the Commodore and to the officers under him. If I made a statement about a little incident which occurred when the Commodore was passing down the Gulf, I did not do it of my own self; it was a common report I heard from several hon. gentlemen in this House. My authority for the statement was the hon. gentleman for Restigouche (Mr. Moffat), and I asked him to-day whether the statement he made was true or not, and he told me he had the information directly from the Lieutenant who commanded the vessel, Lieutenant Têtu. I am sure any hon. gentleman who heard me speaking on the motion the other evening, knows perfectly that I had not the slightest intention of saying anything derogatory to the hon. gentleman who has just spoken, or to any of the officers or crew. I merely, perhaps, not believing the little story myself as I heard it from the gentleman, stated it for the purpose of illustrating the speech I made that evening, without any intention of insulting the hon. gentleman or any of the officers of his ship.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker,---

Mr. SPEAKER. Unless the House is willing, this matter cannot be discussed any longer.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on, Go on.

Mr. MITCHELL. I merely rise because I have been referred to by the hon. gentleman from Gaspé (Mr. Fortin), and I am only going to occupy a few minutes. I feel it due to him, when insinuations have been made against him, and he is made the subject of what I thought to be ridicule, but which my hon. friend who has just sat down has explained he did not mean as ridicule, but simply repeated as a story—I say when the hon. member for Gaspé refers to me in the manner he did, he does it for the purpose of eliciting from me my opinion of the services he has rendered this country. I had the honour to be the Minister of Marine and Fisheries under whom the hon. gentleman served, and I will say this for him, that for efficiency, for discipline, for cleanliness and order, for the manner in which he fulfilled the duties of the very important office he held as Chief Magistrate or Judge, extending along a thousand miles of coast, his conduct was such as reflected the greatest honour alike upon himself and upon the Government he served. Sir, as his Minister, I take this opportunity of paying to that hon. gentleman the highest compliment that can be paid him. He was always zealous, and he did what a great many Militia officers do not do if we may judge from the statements we heard the other night—he obeyed orders—and looking at the reports, extending over thirteen years, and seeing the study, the attention, and ability, and particularity which those reports displayed, every one must agree with me in saying that the country owes to my old friend the Commodore a debt of gratitude for his practical services, and for the manner in which he performed important and delicate duties along that coast, where now his present