

privilege or advantage given to Sir Hugh Allan with that contract that has not been given equally to the other twelve? (*Cheers.*) It is not pretended that any of the other twelve paid money for their positions. It is not contended that the gentlemen gave anything further than their own personal feelings might dictate. (*Cheers.*) You cannot name a man of these thirteen that has got any advantage over the other except that Sir Hugh Allan has his name down first on this paper. (*Cheers.*)

Can any one believe that the Government is guilty of the charges made against them. I call upon any one who does to read that charter. Is there anything in that contract? If there is a word in that charter which derogates from the rights of Canada; if there is any undue privilege, or right, or preponderance given to any one of these thirteen Directors, I say, Mr. Speaker, I am condemned. But, Sir, I commit myself, the Government commits itself, to the hands of this House, and far beyond the House, it commits itself to the country at large. (*Loud cheers.*) We have faithfully done our duty. We have fought the battle of Confederation. We have fought the battle of Union. We have had Party strife setting province against province, and more than all, we have had in the greatest province the preponderating province of the Dominion, every prejudice and sectional feeling that could be arrayed against us.

I have been the victim of that conduct to a great extent; but I have fought the battle of Confederation, the battle of Union, the battle of the Dominion of Canada. I throw myself upon this House; I throw myself upon this country; I throw myself upon posterity, and I believe that I know that, notwithstanding the many failings in my life, I shall have the voice of this county and this House rallying round me. (*Cheers.*) And, Sir, if I am mistaken in that, I can confidently appeal to a higher Court, to the Court of my own conscience, and to the Court of Posterity. (*Cheers.*)

I leave it with this House with every confidence. I am equal to either fortune. I can see cast the decision of this House either for or against me, but whether it be against me or for me I know, and it is no vain boast to say so, for even my enemies will admit that I am no boaster, that there does not exist in Canada a man who has given more of his time, more of his heart, more of his wealth, or more of his intellect and power, such as it may be, for the good of this Dominion of Canada. (*The right hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid loud and long continued cheering.*)

Hon. Mr. BLAKE rose amid loud cheers from the Opposition, and said the hon. gentleman who has addressed the House for more than five hours, has in a long Parliamentary experience learned how to conduct a weak case as no man better than himself knows. When the logic of the case is with him, when he has got an honest straight case, no man knows better than himself the importance of marshalling all the facts in their order, of abandoning all irrelevant topics, of putting all else aside, and of confiding to the House the question which is for its decision; and no man is better aware than himself that when the case is different, as this case is, when the case is of such a character that it cannot bear investigation, that the only course open is to reverse that mode of procedure, to confuse the argument, touch a tender part now for a moment, and then pass

away from it, and revert to it again, but with no connected stain, with no attempt at plain argument, to demonstrate that which it is impossible to demonstrate (*cheers*), and that other artifice which at the close of a long career he has brought into prominence tonight, and which he has copied from his early professional experience, he has followed in this debate, namely, when he has no case to abuse the other side. (*Cheers.*)

Sir, the interests which are at stake on this occasion are too momentous, the circumstances we have to consider are of too grave a character, to permit us for one moment to waste the time of this House by any discussion which is not fairly relevant to these matters, and which is not for the determination of this House. (*Hear, hear.*)

As to the apostrophe by the hon. gentleman, as to those influences upon which he said he now throws himself for judgment, upon the feeling and intelligent judgement, of the House and country, and of posterity, and last and highest, on that member's *conscientia recta* which he says he possesses, my short answer to that feeling apostrophe is this: that the hon. gentleman was called upon to vindicate before the people his policy. When he was called upon by reason and argument to sustain his course, and to prove his title to the confidence of his country, it was not to these high and elevating sentiments he appealed; it was not upon the intelligent judgment of the people he relied, but it was upon Sir Hugh Allan's money (*loud cheers*), which he obtained by the sale of the rights of the Canadian people, which he held in trust.

What have we to do in this great discussion with the question whether a letter had been stolen, whether a telegram had been bought, whether McMullen sold or gave the letters of Sir Hugh Allan? Have these questions anything to do with the question whether the hon. gentleman acted unworthily of his position, and betrayed the trust confided to him? These suggestions of his are interpolated into this debate most unjustly, and they are excusable only from the feeble condition in which the hon. gentleman this night stands. (*Cheers.*) But for that feeble condition, unscrupulous as he has shown himself in debate, I believe that even he would have abstained from resorting to these arguments. If the hon. gentleman has any charge to make against any member of the House of having been guilty of acts unworthy of a member of this House, I do not doubt that at the proper time he will formulate that charge. I do not doubt that even-handed justice will be meted out as soon as he shall have established that they have acted in a manner unworthy of a member of this House; but what have we to do tonight with the question whether the hon. gentleman can or cannot formulate such charges, or can or cannot establish them?

We are dealing with men whom we impeach not as accused but as established criminals. (*Cheers.*) This pledge of the prisoner at the bar, that his accuser has been guilty of some other crime, which the hon. gentleman has been this night declaring, cannot now be entertained. Let him, or those who succeed him in Parliament, at some future day, as soon as he pleases when these charges have been disposed of, redeem his pledges this night given, and put these