

n power than a feeble Reform Government that would not give effect to their own principles." Going back to the declarations of the gentleman, before coming to power, we find purity in politics a professed fundamental principle, and how feeble, how powerless has been the Reform Government to give effect to that principle! On the journey to Ottawa I was forcibly reminded that "extremes meet and history repeats itself." Two gentlemen on the cars were discussing life in India, and the conversation turned on the serpents of that country; how the most deadly of the tribe, the cobra, often found its way into the dwelling, the office, and even the private desk. So alarming was this plague at one time that the Government determined to put an end to it, and offered a bounty for every one killed, but to the dismay of the Government, and the horror of the well disposed, the natives immediately started breeding establishments for them. See how closely the precedent has been followed here. When the gentlemen now on the Government benches were in Opposition and loudest in their cry that the political cobra existed in this country, but little heed was given to them until it was discovered that one had found its way to the private desk of a gentleman and appropriated his papers to foster a brood. Shortly after this it was heralded abroad that it was breeding in the public offices of the country, and that in the principal Postoffice of the Dominion its young had been discovered with a venomous hold on private letters—letters properly sealed and lawfully stamped, but which the stamp, the Queen's penny, failed to protect to keep sacred and inviolate. The public mind was intensely moved at this announcement, and when the then leader of the Opposition pledged himself and his party to remove the evil, to inaugurate a new reign of purity, and to elevate the standard of public morality, so that the trail of the serpent should no more be found in political life, the country received with joy the announcement and the pledge, and the honorable gentleman and his friends were placed in power to redeem the promise. But mark what followed, how singularly history repeats. The moment they were in a position to give effect to their principles the natives of the party converted almost every hustings in the country into breeding establishments of the cobra. And the records of our courts and the journals of Parliament show that it has multiplied beyond precedent in any country having representative institutions. If it had hitherto been lying under cover, or creeping in the shade, it became a walker

abroad. If it did not meet us squarely in our pathway, it came upon us in circular form, after its manner. The evidence of its increase grew, and was pushed upon us from all sides, not coming down handsomely but gathering thick as the falling leaves in Valambrosa, until men everywhere are alarmed, and each asks the other where is this evil to end. To quiet in some measure this alarm and anxiety, I bring this Indian precedent. It will be observed in this that no charge was ever made against that Government of having started a breeding establishment on their own account, and that therefore our Government is not necessarily called on by it to go into the business. Indeed, taking the precedent in connection with the well known character of the original elevator of the standard, I think we may rest assured that he, at least, is safe though the entire party desert. Though henchman and colleague, all forsake him, yet with an iron will and a purpose of steel he will pursue his own course; and, if left alone, like the last rose of summer, like that last rose he will bloom alone. No sitting down in melancholy sadness as Macaulay pictures the New Zealander in the far future on the broken arch of London Bridge, contemplating the desolation around him, but erect, sternly and grandly, will he fill to the letter the description given of an old British politician, "a solitary sentinel pacing his lonely rounds about the deserted citadel of his own utterances," pacing his lonely rounds about the deserted citadel of Grit purity. Let the country, then, rest satisfied that at least a remnant of purity may be left; and whether the seven years of plenty under Sir John are to be followed by three or five years of depression under the present Government, let us look for nothing worse than State poverty, the Government not being called upon under the precedent to breed the cobra.

Hon. Mr. McPHERSON—I would not detain the House at this period of the debate, but that I wish to direct the attention of honorable gentlemen to one or two points. I have always been of opinion that it is in general desirable that we should follow British parliamentary usage in passing the Address, with as little debate as circumstances will permit, and I was therefore somewhat disappointed that the Address was not passed on Friday last. I feel, however, that the House has been more than repaid for the time occupied in debate by listening to the very able, interesting, and eloquent speech that has just been delivered. An amount of information has been placed before the House in a concise form, which cannot