

the man whom he placed there as Premier, has followed out a policy of the bitterest hostility to the Dominion Government on each and every occasion. In the west, I know I was favored with many visitors during the late campaign, amongst others two or three officials of the Ontario Government who were sent to speak and to canvass against me, and to appeal to the passions and prejudice of the people of my riding, and to prejudice me with them by false representations. On every occasion, at every General election since the present Government obtained power in Ontario, they have unceasingly striven to persecute the Government of which the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald is the chief. I think that such conduct has been a more serious injury to Confederation, and to the interests of this country, than anything which has occurred in this Dominion since the establishment of the confederacy. One word more. I think the gentlemen who had their gazetting delayed are in a more favorable position than those who were gazetted earlier, because I think sober second thoughts may enable gentlemen to pull through when people find there is not all this ground for attack which there is sometimes rumored to be immediately after an election is over. Just after an election we find all sorts of rumors floating about in constituencies. In my own constituency the warden of the county is now awaiting his trial, but, although the warden is awaiting his trial for bribery on my behalf, they have done me the honor to refrain from petitioning against my return. I think that if the Premier or his friends had not been in such a hurry to have him gazetted, early for Kingston, possibly the sober second thoughts of the people of that borough might have saved them from perpetuating Kingston's shame, and that attack—particularly that personal attack—would not have been made upon a man who had served the city of Kingston for forty years, and had given his whole life to the service of the country. The bitterness which inspired the hon. gentlemen opposite during the campaign, which inspires them to-day, finds its foundation in this, that they had not one question of principle at stake when they went to the country; that there was not one great reform demanded and denied; that there was not one single section of the country suffering under any injustice, and, therefore, having no policy on which to go to the country, having accepted the policy of this Government in all its details and having nothing whatever to offer in exchange, they were compelled to fall back upon personal abuse and the slander of private character—slander in which defenceless women and invalid children were compelled to take their share. I think that is the secret, and, if these gentlemen think we are afraid of them, and that they can carry on the onslaught against us here, and that we will quietly sit down and let them put their feet upon our necks, they mistake our temper on this side towards them. We do not forget—I do not forget for one—the manner in which we have been treated by hon. gentlemen opposite, the way in which courtesy, fair play and gentlemanly good-feeling towards them have been reciprocated by them, but they must understand that, just as they deal out to us their attempts to intimidate us in carrying on the affairs of this House, we will deal with them and will give back blow for blow. This Government has deserved the confidence of this country, and possesses the confidence of the country, and while it deserves that confidence it will have our cordial support; but I may say for myself that I do not purpose supporting any measure or any transaction that I cannot be a party to and at the same time retain my self-respect. As far as my friend from West Elgin (Mr. Casey) is concerned, he generally, when he rises, makes himself particularly agreeable to the hon. the Premier. That shows the ingratitude of my friend from Elgin, because the Premier in 1871 or 1872 carved out a constituency for my friend, and, when, owing to his

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex).

opposition to popular measures, there was a doubt of his success, he strengthened him again in 1882 and kept him there. I can understand my friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills) not liking the way in which my hon. friend from Elgin was strengthened, but I cannot understand the ingratitude of my friend from Elgin towards the man who has kept him in public life. I may add that I think it is the duty of gentlemen, while making these indiscriminate charges, to point out the constituencies where partisan returning officers have been appointed and the constituencies where officials, such as registrars and sheriffs, could have been selected and were not. I do not know of such constituencies. In the west we had none such. These officials were chosen all through the west, and the elections were conducted in the fairest possible manner. I, for one, am perfectly satisfied that, when the matter comes to be investigated, it will be found that the whole affair was not worth wasting the afternoon over.

Mr. BLAKE. I am sorry that the hon. gentleman should suppose that the afternoon was wasted. I want to know what else there was to do. We got through the Order paper, and we might just as well discuss this important question of public policy as for the hon. gentleman to go to his lodgings and amuse himself in whatever way he may be accustomed to amuse himself when the House is not in session. We are not wasting public time, because the time which has been devoted to this discussion would have been devoted to private affairs if it were not given to this important public question. The hon. gentleman has taken three different views with reference to this matter, and I prefer the view which he took under the influence of his own personal feelings in his own case. He told us at one time that it was really a matter of no consequence at all in what order the gazettes took place, that it was a tempest in a teapot, and that he was surprised that we said anything about it. In another part of his speech he told us that we were favored in being gazetted late, that it was the most advantageous course for us, because it was giving time for passions to cool and suspicions to vanish, and that thus petitions might be avoided. These were two of the opinions which he expressed; but he gave a third. What was it? It was the one which he acted upon himself when he went to the sheriff, when he went to the man whom he appointed returning officer and said: Please send down my return as soon as possible. There are the three opinions the hon. gentleman gave us his choice of. He chose the one which he vouched for and verified by having founded his own conduct upon it. What was the reason the hon. gentleman wanted the sheriff to get his return at once? Because he wanted to be gazetted early. Why? Because he knew that the period for the petition would elapse earlier, the earlier he was gazetted. Was there any other reason? If so, will the hon. gentleman tell us? If not, we understand perfectly that the hon. gentleman knew quite well what the advantage was which he would derive from the course he pursued. Ah! says the hon. gentleman, I understand how it is that you hon. gentlemen are so uneasy to be gazetted quickly. It must be because you are afraid. Let me retort his own action—let me retort his own conduct? What was the hon. gentleman afraid of? Was it consistent with a perfect confidence in his own return, that he should be anxious to hurry his gazetting? I do not say it was not, but if it was, why does he insinuate an improper motive and a consciousness of wrong, because we also desired our gazetting to be earlier? Is that the fair play which he has invoked on this occasion? Is that the candid, the even-handed justice, which he calls upon us to display at the peril of his displeasure, at the peril of his violating the law and the gospel, and returning blow for blow? If it is, we would like to see him give us some other sample of fair play upon which we should act. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman from