

it is not necessary for me to defend—the hon. gentleman to whom I refer against the assaults of the member for South Oxford. I comfort myself with the reflection that all the great Canadians, notably two who have passed away, who have won all the honours obtainable in Canada at the hands of their countrymen, and have seen their labours crowned with the approval of Her Majesty, have had the inveterate hate and abuse of the member for South Oxford. There was nothing too vile for him to say of Sir John Macdonald in season and out of season. In his rage and violent conduct towards that hon. gentleman, he lost the little hold he once had upon the people of this country. Indeed, on these topics, I think on both sides of the House, as well as in the country, he is regarded as a political madman, absolutely devoid of reason, absolutely without any ability to see any virtue whatever in the character of those hon. gentlemen. Sir John Thompson was the last to come under his lash, and I think a certain scene in this chamber is familiar to hon. gentlemen present, because the hon. member for South Oxford had then audacity enough to say those things before his opponent's face. The scene is familiar to this chamber when the late Sir John Thompson administered to that gentleman such a castigation that he was not only civil to Sir John Thompson for the remainder of his life, but acted with wonderful success the part of a gentleman in this chamber from that time down to the present day. So I think the hon. gentleman may do as a certain animal has done—gnaw at those files for a considerable time without hurting the files. The hon. leader of the Opposition even departed from his usual happy vein and disclosed the secret of his mortification at the changes which have taken place. He referred to purposes of selfish aggrandizement, and imputed sinister motives and the most unworthy objects. But against this suspicion or charge, I set in bold contrast the fact that there were gentlemen willing to risk their positions and even the good opinion of their fellow countrymen, in order to obtain the success of their party; and they have, I think, the gratification to-night to know that though that task was difficult and the trial hard, they have been afforded abundant and cogent proof that their action was wise and has resulted most happily for the Conservative party and for the interests which that party holds dear. The hon. member for Queen's, P.E.I. (Mr. Davies) was not content to deal with the present so-called crisis alone; but he drew largely upon that fertile imagination of his for some facts in connection with myself. He went so far as to say—though I think one of his colleagues corrected him later—that I left the Cabinet last spring. I have to tell the hon. gentleman that there is no truth in that statement. I have to tell the hon. gentleman that the only time that I have resigned from the Cabinet of this

country I have remained out, and I am out to-day. I do not regret the step I have taken. I have parted from the Cabinet, as has been already explained, for the benefit of the Cabinet, and I am willing to admit it. I never assumed to be a strong man in that Cabinet; but I have proclaimed my belief in the principles of the Conservative party, and my ability faithfully and loyally to represent the interests of my county, and my willingness to do what I can to promote the principles of the Conservative party. I differed from my colleagues last spring, there is no doubt about that, and there is no dishonour in the fact. I had strong views as to the course that ought to be adopted; but finally, after the discussion of those views, I abandoned them and was willing to remain and did remain a member of the Cabinet. Do the hon. gentlemen opposite, who sat in the Cabinet for a few years, brief though the time was, pretend that no strong differences of opinion prevailed between them? Do they wish the people of this country to believe that in the discussion of matters pertaining to the interests of Canada, at the Council board, unanimity is ever to be found. Sir, we know that at that board the strongest differences exist, and have to be discussed and solved; we know that cabinets are continually occupied with the discussion of differences of opinion. But on the occasion to which I refer I can say that I played neither part of a skulker, to use the dignified language of the hon. member for Queen's, nor the part of a coward. I had the courage of my convictions then, I have the courage of my convictions now, and in that respect I differ from the hon. member for Queen's. I never ran away from this House, as the hon. member did last session when there was to come before it this important and vital question concerning the minority of the people of Manitoba.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. gentleman is fond of making false accusations. I tell him that the charge which he has made to-night is false.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I tell him that the charge that he has made is without any foundation. He said I ran away from this House. That is not correct.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I shall not bandy words with the hon. gentleman, but I shall tell him that he disappeared from the chamber of this House—that he was not present during the discussion which took place on the question of the policy of the Government as regards remedial legislation; and if there was a time when a man professing to be the coadjutor leader of the Liberal party for the maritime provinces ought to have been in this House, surely it was on the occasion of the discussion of a grave constitutional question of the kind to which I refer. Whether he ran