

not despair. They are perfectly equal to the emergency. I was much amused to-night when I heard the hon. gentleman say that the country owed the late Government a debt of gratitude for having refused to depart from a Revenue Tariff in 1876. Let any intelligent man in this House read his Budget Speech for that year, and I will undertake to say that he will rise from its perusal with a conviction that that speech was prepared for a Protective Tariff. The hon. gentleman possesses great ability of statement, but he was not quite equal to the emergency. The Government of which he was Finance Minister saw that they would have a heavy deficit, and after taking counsel with each other they came to the conclusion that they owed it to the country to raise the Tariff from 17½ per cent. to 20 per cent. The hon. the Finance Minister prepared his speech for a Tariff of 20 per cent. Why was the Tariff not raised? A deputation from the Maritime Provinces, led by Mr. Jones, waited on him and told him that the Government must choose between abandoning the proposed Protective Tariff and going out of office. They counted their friends, and concluded that they were in a minority. At the last moment, they abandoned their policy, and the first half of the hon. gentleman's speech was one of the most elaborate and conclusive arguments in favour of Protection that it is in the power of any man in or out of this Parliament to deliver, while the latter half advocated Free Trade. He had not time to reconstruct his Budget Speech, and was compelled to put a Free-trade tail on a Protectionist body. I feel that I am warranted in saying the hon. gentlemen opposite will never regain power until they change their policy. Perhaps it may be said that they cannot change. The hon. gentleman opposite me is perfectly equal to it. If we go back a few years we will find that he admitted he was a Protectionist in principle.

SIR RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT: I never said anything of the kind.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: The hon. gentleman was able to support my right hon. friend and Sir Alexander Galt in 1858.

SIR RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT: In 1858, I was not in this House.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER: If the hon. gentleman was not inside he was

outside, doing his little best for them; and, having learnt how incapable Sir Alexander Galt was, he went into Parliament to support him. Having changed two or three times already, he can change once more; and that he will make that change, if he remains in public life, is as certain as that he has changed before. These hon. gentlemen opposite will never come back to power again, until they are brought to accept the verdict of the intelligent people of Canada. What was it that turned the scale to such an extent, that a party, coming into office by one of the most overwhelming majorities, should be placed in the powerless minority in which they are at present? It was because the people came to the conclusion that their policy was disastrous to the country, and the most independent men supporting them turned their backs upon them and placed my right hon. friend in the proud position he now occupies. So long as the hon. gentlemen set themselves against the public sentiment, so long as the *Globe* newspaper gloats with fiendish delight over every failure and every commercial disaster in the country; so long as it is apparent that it is not principle but party that actuates them, so long will they be compelled to content themselves with the position they now occupy. The moment the hon. member for Centre Huron (Sir Richard J. Cartwright) admits anything like rational thought upon this subject, so soon as he becomes convinced that the only road to power is a change of policy, he will be found—and so will his party be found—equal to making the change. The only account the hon. gentleman could give of the prosperity of the country was that these things come by fits and starts. Well, Sir, so long as the fits are with him, and the starts are with us, we shall be satisfied. I was a little astonished at the hon. gentleman venturing to say that the people of this country were cursing the hour they brought this party into power; and he pointed to the imaginary scores of starving and indignant workmen who came the other day for assistance. But does he know that the only man that was ever imprisoned in this building was the hon. the leader of the Opposition; that a private stairway had to be constructed so that he could be protected and hidden