

my ancestors. I do not make these remarks, as hon. gentlemen will see, in any acrimonious spirit, and I would not interject into the statement I am now making the slightest circumstance that might tend to encumber it or give anyone reason to suppose that I make any attack on the hon. gentleman for using those words, or do anything to divert the attention of the House and the public from the plain, honest statement I am now making. Immediately I saw yesterday morning in the public press the statement the hon. leader of the Opposition had made, I telegraphed to my trusted personal friends in this House, the hon. member for Ottawa City (Mr. Mackintosh) and the hon. member for Essex (Mr. Patterson) calling their attention to the statement the hon. leader of the Opposition had made, and requested them at once to proceed to the *Hansard* office and see that the necessary correction was made in the official reports of the debates. That was all that I could have done, under the circumstances. The hon. gentleman will perceive that the charge of altering the speech of the hon. gentleman opposite is entirely unfounded. The only thing I did was to attribute to him a remark which I supposed in perfect good faith he had made. The hon. gentleman will also perceive that the second charge made in this article against me, that this change was made in *Hansard* without the knowledge of the *Hansard* management, is entirely false, because I made the statement clearly and distinctly to the reviser of *Hansard* of all the circumstances connected with it. There remains, therefore, only the explanation with regard to my ordering copies of *Hansard* to be distributed among my constituents. I found, whether it be that I spoke very quickly on the occasion, or that my sentences were long, or whether it be that I am difficult to report, or through not having obtruded myself very frequently on the House, the *Hansard* men are unfamiliar with my style of delivery, or whether there may be other imperfections in my style of rapid delivery, I know not—that there were many errors in the first printed copies of my speech, and I desired a correct copy, to go to my constituents. I desired it, in the first place, because I wished the plain, honest truth to be put before them, and, in the second place, because I had precise information that certain gentlemen, in sympathy with hon. gentlemen opposite—I will not say any member of this House, because, I do not know the fact with regard to that—had intended, and were actually taking steps to have printed and circulated in my constituency many more than a thousand copies of the first print of my speech, in order to convey to my constituents an erroneous impression of what I had said. I, therefore, thought it was due to myself and my constituents that a true version of what I had said should go to them, and I therefore ordered copies of the correct version of what I had said. But I never dreamed or contemplated for a moment, when I was ordering the copies, that there was any improper statement attributed to the leader of the Opposition, or to any other hon. gentleman in this House; and when I found that the hon. gentleman stated distinctly—and when he makes a statement I believe him—that there was an error in the revised copy, I took all the steps I could, by wire and through the double medium of two gentlemen who I knew would spare no effort to serve me in the right way, to have the correction made, and I am now able to say that through the diligence of my hon. friends not a single copy of the speech of which the hon. the leader of the Opposition has made complaint has been distributed among my constituents. I believe one or two copies were sent out for examination, but not one single copy, either of that or of the speech as it is now properly corrected, with the amendment the hon. gentleman has suggested, has been sent to my constituents. If there is a mistake on my part, an unwitting mistake, in attributing a remark to the leader of the Opposition which he did not make, I trust, by the course I have taken—and I have taken,

I think, every step I could to repair the mistake—that he will be able to say to this House, as I think he ought, in justice to a public man, occupying the humble position I do in this House and the country, that upon the full and, I trust clear and explicit, or, whether clear and explicit, the truthful statement I have made, that there was no intentional wrong-doing on my part, and not for a moment the slightest intention to do him an injustice or to save myself from any consequence that might result from the remarks I had made.

Mr. BLAKE. I am sorry the hon. gentleman misinterpreted my smile. I repeat the statement which I made, that I had not the slightest idea of indicating, by a smile, any degree of incredulity whatever as to the perfect accuracy of the statement the hon. gentleman has made. I accept his statement as the statement of a gentleman, literally and absolutely accurate. I did not charge the hon. gentleman; I would not have charged him, in his absence, with having done a fraudulent or improper thing in that sense at all. I felt it essential to state, at the earliest moment—and it is fortunate I did so, from what the hon. gentleman has said—simply the facts as they were—and I was sorry the hon. gentleman was absent, the facts that I had not used the language which was attributed to me in the report, and that it had not been submitted to me for correction in any way. The hon. gentleman has now stated how he derived the information upon which he took the responsibility of inserting that interpolation. I am sorry I did not notice, in the course of the debate, that the hon. gentleman indicated that he had not caught my remark. I learn now, for the first time, that he did indicate that, or I would have repeated my remark at the time.

Mr. MACMASTER. It is so indicated by *Hansard* itself.

Mr. BLAKE. It is not indicated that the hon. gentleman said: "I beg your pardon." I am sorry I did not happen to hear his "I beg your pardon," and when he answered, as I supposed, the observation I had made, I could not be supposed to discern that he was answering some remark I had not made. I supposed he was making a jocose answer to my jocose observation. I was endeavoring to congratulate the hon. gentleman on the progress of development since that period, 150 years ago, when he said his ancestors were savages. He had pointed out: "the Indian will advance by the progress of development" go on and progress; and I said: "The progress of development." I thought he was a striking instance of the progress of development, a proof of the hon. gentleman's theory. That was the whole of my remark, and when the hon. gentleman answered, I was not paying much attention to the response. I did not think it very appropriate, but it did not lead me to the idea that he had misunderstood what I had said. I may express the regret which, I think, the hon. gentleman shares, that when the interpolation was inserted no suggestion should have been made, either by the official reporters or by anybody else, to enquire of myself whether the words attributed to me were correct; but I assume, with the utmost confidence, that the hon. gentleman absolutely believed the statement which was made to him by his friend, that he was quite convinced, from the statement he had heard from his friend, and that he took the responsibility which he and I regret he took, entirely innocent of the slightest desire or design of imputing to me words I did not utter or which he thought I did not utter.

Mr. MACMASTER. I was not familiar with the way in which the *Hansard* reporters submit these corrections, or whether it was customary to submit amendments of that kind to hon. gentlemen. I see that some of my own interruptions during the debate were not entered, interruptions