

will ever become the backbone of the Liberal party with the daily and violent onslaughts of his press and of his colleagues against the so-called "French domination." I only wonder that he can obtain support at all from that quarter. The hon. member for Quebec East, who was present on that occasion, in order to encourage the few French Liberals of the Ottawa district, not only endorsed the statement of his leader, but even expressed the conviction that "if the grand old leaders, Baldwin and Lafontaine, returned to earth they would not be found in the ranks of the so-called Liberal-Conservative party, but among the Liberals who believed not in legislating for personal aggrandizement, but for the greatest good of the greatest number." Truly, Mr. Speaker, Lafontaine and Baldwin were two great men. Their names cannot be too much honored, too much respected. Their names will be forever enshrined into the hearts of a grateful people. Both will occupy a high place in the Canadian Pantheon. But why should the hon. member for Quebec East insult their memory in stating that if they were living to-day they would be found in the ranks of the Grit party. Baldwin was a Liberal, but he was not a Grit. He was chased out of public life by a Grit. Lafontaine was a Liberal in the broadest sense of the word, but he was not a Rouge. Lafontaine was the embodiment of the political unity of his race, and that unity was broken by the friends of the hon. member for Quebec East. His bitterest enemies were the Radicals, headed by Mr. Papineau, whom the hon. member for Quebec East seems to discard, to repudiate now. Lafontaine has founded a political creed which is the creed of the French Conservatives of to-day; his associates and his disciples were the Morins, the Tachés, the Cartiers who have been, with this great man, the real founders of the French Conservative party. If any one doubts that Lafontaine was opposed in the most violent manner by the party represented now by the hon. member for Quebec East, the following extracts from *Le Pays* and *L'Avenir*—the French Liberal organs at that time—will show to what extent the leaders of the Opposition misrepresent history in claiming Lafontaine as one of them. On the 5th December, 1852, we find the following language used by *Le Pays*:

"Decentralization and democracy are one, but he who says centralization says despotism. Now, Mr. Lafontaine did nothing but centralize during four years, thus ignoring democracy. His supporters ignored it also. Centralization has always been to this country the hydra-headed monster of the fable, the beast with seven heads of the Apocalypse."

Now, what will one think of the Liberals who claim as their own a man whom formerly they charged with being