

responsible Government in Canada, would have done under such circumstances.

I have named Sir Robert Baldwin: I fear that my memory fails me; I do not know that that hon. gentleman was decorated with a title of honor, though he always merited it as much as his colleague and a great deal more than those who have received it after him. I do not make these observations, hon. gentlemen, with a view of belittling royal favors: no, certainly not, but to criticize those who have inspired or demanded them. It is not the course that would have been pursued by the Hon. A. Norbert Morin, that upright man who was one of those grand historical figures who appear from time to time, but rarely and at long intervals.

I remember that under the Union of the Canadas, when the Parliament sat at Kingston, evil-minded men, men who had no sense of their duty and of British interests, dared to propose to prohibit the use of the French language in Parliament. The Hon. A. Norbert Morin, who was at the time in the Chamber, rose from his seat and made an eloquent appeal to his compatriots, remarking: "The time has arrived, the hour has sounded, when, if you fail to raise your heads, open your eyes and condemn those who deserve condemnation, you will merit the prohibition of the use of our language, which has been guaranteed to us by the plighted faith of Great Britain." At that time not a French member on either side of the House would accept a portfolio in the iniquitous Government, save on the condition, which was a *sine qua non*, that they would re-establish the use of their language; and we know justice was rendered to them.

Neither is it what Sir Etienne Paschal Taché would have done, that valiant chevalier, with the arm and will of iron, who gave his friends and adversaries to understand that though there was a time to yield there was also a time to resist. I remember that when he was Prime Minister certain young gentlemen came to him demanding promotion in the sedentary and volunteer militia. "Wait, my young friends," said he, "till your predecessors disappear; your time will always come soon enough. Learn that I, in the war of 1812, was a soldier before I was a lieutenant."

Neither would Sir George Etienne Cartier have made such a concession. I remember that under the Union of the two Canadas, whilst Parliament sat at Kingston, how grandly the illustrious statesman criticized and condemned the formation of the Brown-Dorion Government because they had put in the Legislative Council only two or three ministers. Did they not also find in that same Legislative Council, of whose rights and privileges they were ignorant, the germ of their defeat which took place 48 hours after their formation?

I also remember a letter which Sir George wrote in reply to a young man who asked his influence to oppose an old member of a county near Montreal. "Before I would permit you to walk over the body of my old followers you must pass over mine. Learn young man that I have not a friend more faithful or devoted. When I want his vote I do not need to sound a bell nor to send a messenger to look for him in the streets of the Capital; he is always in the breach, always at his post, in evil as in good fortune." I recall also an occasion in the first session of the first Parliament after Confederation when Sir George Cartier said in the full Chamber, probably in view of the rights and privileges of the Provinces being menaced, "Let us pay marked attention to this fact—the party questions which divided us under the Union of the Canadas have no longer any reason to exist under the Confederation."

Acting on this wise and judicious doctrine, in the last general election, I would have thrown myself into the contest to obtain justice for my poor Province in this honorable Chamber, if it had not been for the unhappy and blind obstinacy of the majority of the Opposition leaders who, contrary to all experience, appeared to be fastened to the policy of free trade as if they had nothing better. I believe that in principle free trade is the best policy we could have, but there is no rule without an exception. It is necessary to know how to apply the rule to the times, the place and the circumstances. It appears to me that the example of our intelligent and industrious neighbors of the greatest republic of modern times, a republic which seems to increase in greatness and prosperity as it advances in