

and, therefore, I intend so far as brevity is concerned, to be exceedingly witty. I may, perhaps, be permitted to say that no one here can claim a longer acquaintance with our distinguished guest than I, as when a boy at college in Kingston in 1843, I had the honor of meeting him at dinner at Mr., afterwards Sir Dominick Daly's.

It affords me, therefore, very great pleasure to take part in this evening's entertainment, and to join with those here present in doing honour to Sir Francis Hincks.

In this Province the greatest possible difference exists between the public and private utterances of the men one meets. It would almost seem as if they were afraid to breathe in public that which they boldly and loudly assert in private. Can it be cowardice?

To me, but an onlooker at the game of politics as played in this Dominion, it is a matter of the greatest gratification that testimony of such high class has been given this evening in favor of the integrity and disinterestedness of the public men of Canada. I had, I must confess, until I heard that unimpeachable evidence, been a firm believer in the theory that some of our politicians, aye, even some of our so-called statesmen, were not to be regarded as entirely disinterested in their attention to the affairs of the country. But after what I have heard this evening, I am forced to believe that all the charges of corruption fulminated against our leading public men and scattered broadcast in the newspaper press throughout the Dominion are utterly and entirely false. To me it is most refreshing thus to be convinced that hitherto I have been in error on this subject, and I hasten to make my public recantation, professing henceforward the belief that the public men of Canada are the most self-sacrificing and purest patriots in the world, ready at a moment's notice to leap, like Marcus Curtius of old, into any gulf or opening which may appear at Ottawa suitable for such a sacrifice.

I admit, Mr. Chairman, that whilst listening to the eloquent words of those who have preceded me this evening we at times were almost deluded into believing that Canada was the true Utopia—recognize the mighty positions occupied here by politics and trade, and the happiness and self-satisfaction they secure to those who embrace them as pursuits; but I may, perhaps, be permitted to observe, in the most humble manner, that there are other matters which, though of infinitely minor importance, should commend themselves to the attention of the people of this Province. There are a few abuses