

sanity of the prisoner, and as that question has been raised by other speakers as well, I shall endeavor to deal with his arguments and those of the other speakers at the same time. However, he wound up his speech, sir, by an appeal to the feelings of the Catholics of this country. He sought to arouse in their minds the idea that this man had been sacrificed to Orange fanaticism, and with that point I shall endeavor to deal in the course of my remarks. But before proceeding to do so, allow me not only on general grounds, but more particularly from the debate which has taken place this afternoon upon the question of proceeding with the motion of the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Landry)—let me refer to the

ASTOUNDING POSITION OF CERTAIN GENTLEMEN

in this house upon this question. Why, Sir, is it possible that these men think they can throw dust in the eyes of the people of Canada? Is it possible that these gentlemen imagine for one moment that the people of Canada do not know what has taken place, not only in the city of Montreal, but throughout the length and breadth of the province of Quebec? These gentlemen get up and say: We want papers; we want documents; we cannot make up our minds; we are absolutely in the dark; we do not know how to vote; we cannot decide this question. I ask, what papers did these men ask on the Champ de Mars? (Cheers.) What papers did they ask when they manufactured effigies of the right hon. leader of the Government and of the gentlemen who represent French-Canadian nationality in this Cabinet? When they manufactured them and set fire to them, after hanging them up, what documents did they ask for? Had they any doubt upon their minds then? Did they ask for documents to show that these men had acted like honest and upright men and good citizens of this country? What documents were asked for by the hon. member for West Ontario (Mr. Edgar), when he stood on the Champ de Mars that day? Did he stand up and say—

Mr. EDGAR—Will the hon. gentleman allow me to correct him.

Mr. CURRAN—The gas question was occupying that hon. gentleman's mind; he was there endeavoring to throw light upon the subject. (Cheers and laughter.) But, Sir, a more important man than the hon. member from West Ontario was there—a man of greater

importance on this question and in this Parliament, the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Laurier) was there when the resolution was passed declaring these hon. gentlemen traitors to their country, their nationality and their creed. Did he hesitate? Did he want documents then, when he stood up and said that if he had been on the borders of the Saskatchewan he would have had his musket on his shoulder? (Cheers.) Did he stop there? Why, no, Sir, he was on the point of carrying out a steady march away off to the city of Toronto, there to exhibit the Saskatchewan musket. True, he changed his mind. (Laughter.) And later on, Queen's hall in Montreal was engaged for the hon. gentleman and his friends to speak once more as he had spoken on the Champ de Mars. He was to have gone there with his musket and show them the drill, but the only drill he performed was, right about face, and march home again. (Great laughter.) There is still more than that in the picture presented to us, when members' counties were invaded, and when as honest and upright men they said: Let us have time, we in the province of Quebec have followed our leaders for years; we have had confidence in them; we have believed them to be honest and conscientious men; give us time to read the documents and we will then pronounce. Was time allowed? No; they were denounced as traitors, and a whole army of spouters invaded every county; they were taken by the throat and forced to give expression to an opinion whether they liked it or not. We have had the magnificent spectacle to-day just as we had one on each of the occasions I have referred to. On both those occasions we have had three different lines adopted with regard to this unfortunate man Riel. We had him paraded before the public as

A HERO, A MARTYR, AND A FOOL;

those were the three contentions upon which they spoke with such tremendous force. Now, sir, why was this agitation confined to the province of Quebec? Why was this hero, this martyr, this unfortunate and insane man merely made a martyr, a hero and a fool of in the province of Quebec alone? We have been told here by the able and eloquent representative of the Metis in this house, and we have all read in the admirable speech of the Hon. Senator Girard in the Senate, that the Metis are a distinct people, that they have their own genius and their own customs, that they are no more