

"What single principle did I hold in abeyance in order to form an Administration?" The honorable gentleman says the charge would be serious if true. I think, with one-third of the Cabinet from the old Conservative party, there is a coalition now, just as well as under the late Government, unless you take the last clause of the Premier's declaration in explanation, "What single principle did I hold in abeyance in order to form an Administration?" You must arrive at one of three conclusions—that there is a coalition existing now, or that the denunciation of the late Government was hollow mockery, or that all the honorable gentlemen associated with him, from the old parties, forget that they ever had principles, and only the principles of the Premier rule in that Government, and make it pure party Government. I rather incline to this last idea, for I notice, during last summer, that a gentleman who formerly supported Sir John Macdonald, the present Finance Minister, and who had assisted him in carrying many measures through Parliament, on a public platform in the West, appeared to hold all his former principles and conduct in abeyance, and to be guided, ruled and influenced only by the principles of the Premier's. When Nova Scotia sought better terms and the late Government granted them to a certain extent, the present Finance Minister gave the measure his support, and yet last season, giving to party what party demanded of him, he denounced the whole thing and endeavored to stir up the people of Ontario against the late Government for having granted those terms. I say the late Government never did a more just act than in granting better terms to Nova Scotia. Turn up the record and you will find the trade that Province and New Brunswick have given. You will find it reaches the enormous sum of over \$100,000,000 in the ten years. I take the returns of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for 1863 and 1866. I see the imports of these ten years and the increase there was. I take the next three years and see the extent to which they have fallen off. In 1863 the imports were \$17,000,000; in 1866, \$24,000,000, for those two Provinces—increase, \$6,521,000. In 1869, at the same rate, they would have reached \$30,000,000, and what were they? Only \$14,890,000, a decrease of \$16,074,000. Does anyone suppose that the people of those two Provinces did not use more goods than that represents? No, but under Confederation, where there is no record of imports from other provinces they bought these goods from Ontario and Quebec. You can only judge the extent of that

trade in this way, and while Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have been pouring this immense sum of over one hundred million in ten years into the lap of the Upper Provinces, I say it was unkind and ungenerous for members of the present Government to go into Ontario constituencies and attempt to create a feeling against the late Government for modifying the terms of our union. But it only confirms me in the idea that one mind, one principle and one voice rules and guides in this Government, and in order that there may be no coalition, pure party Government, all the rest are to hold in abeyance any principles they may have. That we see, is carried to perfection in the Lower House, but it occurs to me sometimes, looking at my honorable friend opposite, the Secretary of State, and who may have some political principles imbibed in his earlier days, to ask myself "Is the Premier not afraid that when this honorable gentleman here is away from under his eye he may not hold those principles in abeyance; but put them into practice," and it has suggested to my mind that the honorable Premier should have a remedy for this—come up here, especially when there is an empty chair, as now, beside the honorable Secretary of State, and see that that gentleman keep all his principles in abeyance. We have heard of managers sometimes running two theatres, and the honorable gentleman might, after he had started well in the Lower House "The School for Scandal" come up here and assist in the "Comedy of Errors," or coming here, put on the boards "The two gentlemen of Verona," and then go back to the other end of the building and enjoy his benefit in the successful management of "the one gentleman of Aurora." It would, I am sure, be considered an injustice to the Government to close without some reference to their melancholy failure to elevate the standard of political purity, a matter of the deepest regret to the country. On no point did their leader appear more sanguine and make louder promises. He declared the whole political condition of the country under Sir John rotten and corrupt to the core, and that the earliest efforts of his party on coming to power would be to reform all this, but hardly had they secured the reins when the evidence of political corruption, comparatively unknown before, spread over the records of our courts and Parliament. The honorable Premier not long since, in a speech delivered before an Ontario audience, said, "I have repeatedly stated that I would prefer at present to have a Conservative Government