

evidence had been obtained. Mr. Abbott is present in the House and will attest the truth of what I state. I can prove that from the beginning to the end of this business there was never a more gross system of espionage, of corruption, of bribing men to steal papers from their employers; and I would ask how any Opposition or Party in this country could stand under such an accusation if it be proved.

Sir, before I sit down I will touch upon one point to which I have not yet adverted, and that is how far a Government or member of a Government may concern themselves in elections, and the necessary expenditure or supposed expenditure of money at elections. I would wish to point out what has taken place in England, not under the old regime, but by the Reform Party in England. It is of some importance, as showing at all events that for everything I have got good authority. The House well remembers the great struggle, almost amounting to a revolution, which accompanied the passage of the Reform Bill in England. Well, Mr. Speaker, strange to say, the Reform Party there, who were going to purify the political atmosphere, those who were going to put down the old borough mongers, did not hesitate to spend money at elections. They did not trust to the excellence of their measures, to the justness of their cause, and the consequence was that before the date of the Carlton Club and the Reform Club, of which so much has recently been said, the Reform Party had a Treasurer, and whom do you think they gave the office to? It was the maker and unmaker of Whiggery, Edward Ellice.

Now, Edward Ellice was the man who made the Whig Government. He was a member of the Government, and acted as whipper-in of the Party, and was the man ordinarily employed in making arrangements about elections. But Edward Ellice was man incapable of doing anything which he did not think he was justified in doing. Any man who knew that right hon. gentlemen, who knew what a great influence he had on the history of his country, would know that Edward Ellice was perhaps a greater man for pulling the strings and making arrangements for Reform than even Lord John Russell himself.

Let me tell you a little story about him. In my boyhood, when I knew him, he often told me stories of this sort. In 1834 there happened to be a committee on the Inns of Court. Mr. Daniel O'Connell was the Chairman, and it came out in that investigation, which involved the seat of a member of Parliament, that Lord Westham had got five hundred pounds from Mr. Ellice the Secretary of the Treasury, in order to carry the Liberal candidate. O'Connell felt it his bounden duty to report this matter to the House, and there was a motion of censure moved against Mr. Ellice by Mr. O'Connell. Mr. Ellice resigned his place and I shall read you what he said. At the time he made that speech he was Secretary of War; at the time he expended the money he was Secretary of the Treasury. He was an important man to the Government and might have been Cabinet Minister, had it not been that as every one who knew the history of those times knew, he would not take that position. He was the man who arranged matters for the Whigs, and he was charged with having used the secret service money in elections, as, by the way, I was a short time ago.

The right hon. gentlemen then quoted from Mr. Ellice's speech, volume 27, *Mirror of Parliament*, and now said he, I will quote from Sir Charles Buller. Sir Charles Buller was the head and front of the Philosophical Radicals of England. They formed a Party of their own, and tried to engraft their principles on the politics of England, and, although they did not succeed, they sowed good seed, the results of which are seen at present day. I, who was a boy, remember him, and remember the kindness with which he discussed politics with me, and I am certain that he would have sustained the cause of the Liberal Party by nothing that was wrong.

The right hon. gentleman quoted from the speech referred to. The attack was made upon Mr. Ellice that he had spent money out of the Secret Service Fund; but when Mr. Ellice rose and said that he had spent no money out of the Secret Service Fund, and that although a very large sum of money had passed through his hands for election purposes, none of it had been improperly procured, the House passed on without taking any action, though Mr. O'Connell supported the motion with all his great eloquence and ability.

A remark has been made in the newspapers that on one occasion I stated that no money had been expended by the Government on elections, and in answer to the charge, I asked Mr. Kidd, on the hustings at South Perth, whether any money had been expended at his election, and he said no, no statement could have been truer.

Sir, the money that was expended by the Committee, of which I was a member, was not with the purpose or object of endangering any man's seat. (*Ironical cheers from the Opposition, and cheers from the Ministerial benches.*) I state distinctly, so far as I know, not one single farthing that passed through my hands was expended improperly or contrary to the law. If it is so, the election tribunal of the country will settle that question, and, as I understand it, no improper expenditure has been proved in any election tribunal. (*Cheers.*) I say distinctly, say it in my place as a member of Parliament, that money was distributed for the purpose of fighting money against money, fire against fire, influence against influence; and we were over-matched by the hon. gentlemen opposite. (*Loud cheers.*)

There is one more remark that I have to make before I sit down. The Government never gave Sir Hugh Allan any contract that I am aware of. (*Cheers.*) We never gave him any contract in which he had a controlling influence. We had formed a Committee of thirteen men, chosen carefully and painfully, for the purpose of controlling Sir Hugh Allan from having any undue influence. We promised, we provided, that not one of the board should hold more than one hundred thousand dollars of the stock, that not one single man should have any interest in the contract whatever, which were, of course, only the ordinary provisions in a charter of incorporation. (*Cheers.*)

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have only one more thing to say on this point. I put it to your own minds. There were thirteen gentlemen, Sir Hugh Allan and others incorporated by that charter. That charter—study it, take it home with you. Is there any single power,