

an audience or animating its now languid energies. Still, sir, at so critical a period all consciousness of inefficiency ceases to exist within the bosom, lest silence should be mistaken for insensibility.

"Four years have elapsed over the legislative labors of this province, and during the interval I have stood aloof of your deliberations. An essential change, I had read, was in action—a new and beneficial system of provincial policy had marked the period in the annals of our country, as an epoch; such was the event, I was taught to believe, that would hereafter to the student of our history distinguish the period under notice, as a discovery of proud and exultant commendation. How far these fond opinions of mine have been verified the experience of this discussion unhappily demonstrates.

"I now come to the remarks of my honorable and learned friend (Andrew Uniacke), member for the township of Halifax, and, Mr. chairman, pardon me if I feel emotion. In the chambers of his lamented father, I, a mere youth, was first taught to pore over the rudiments of that knowledge whose rich stores were by him accumulated as treasures to be left as legacies to those children who are now ornaments of this house, and it was under his teaching I was first taught to think of, and to appreciate, the value of those principles this day in controversy. He, with a mind capacious enough to comprehend systems of more enlarged policy than those to which narrower ones then dedicated their idolatry—with a spirit ardently inspired to covet and to claim these benefits for this country; he, the venerated father of my hon. friend, ere I was yet a week under his vigilance and his care, imposed on me the duty of transcribing a voluminous essay of suggestion to the home government—even then, years ago, redolent, in every page, of the spirit now struggling to animate the languid constitution of this country.

"My hon. friend has reminded us that the President of the Council, the senior member of the executive, was one con-