

very ancient acquaintance of mine. Using the word "fame" in its scientific definition, I may say that the fame of Sir Charles Tupper, if not precisely well known in all the churches, is well known in all the provinces of this Dominion. It is well known that he graduated with very high honours in his own peculiar school in Nova Scotia many years ago. Nova Scotia—"arida nutrix leonum," which if my hon. friend from Picton (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) will permit me, I will freely translate—Nova Scotia, which has produced so many eminent men, but which has also been the dry-nurse, aye, and the wet-nurse too, of the most highly developed type of Tory boodlers this country has ever known. I say that with the most profound apology to those of my hon. friends from Nova Scotia who have helped us so well in driving that valuable class of individuals to the wall. Now, Sir, I am bound to say that knowing what tremendous pressure was exercised on Sir Mackenzie Bowell, I feel considerable pity for that hon. gentleman. I have no doubt whatever that his intentions originally were right, and I think some of those whom I know to have exercised this pressure upon him for the purpose of bringing together at all costs and at all hazards men who have no possible ground for respecting or trusting each other; I say, Sir, these men might very well have spared him that. But all the same, and I say it with regret, I have to say to Sir Mackenzie Bowell, that if there be anything on earth which could justify the conduct of these gentlemen, it is that he himself, by his own conduct in admitting them once more to his councils, has gone far to justify them. And now, Mr. Speaker, as to the statements which have been made, I have been given to understand—though I cannot imagine how the idea has got abroad—I have been given to understand that there have been some persons in this House who have insinuated in times past that I did not always attach the implicit credence which I ought to have done to the statements made by hon. gentlemen opposite. I have been told so. Permit me to say on this occasion, I am prepared to state here in my place in Parliament, that I attach implicit credence to the statement made—that is to the statements they have severally made about each other. As I understand the rulings which were frequently laid down by the Chair in this House, that is my duty as a member of Parliament, and I mean to do my duty. I believe also, and I am here open to correction, that it is my constitutional duty to extend to the other Chamber in the legislature, similar courtesy. If that be your ruling, and I presume it is, I feel that I am likewise bound to extend the same implicit credence to the statements which have been made by the hon. the Premier in his place in the other Chamber. It is in the recollection of some hon.

gentlemen here that the hon. the Premier, in the hearing of many gentlemen around me, described himself not many days ago—I do not think you were in the Chair at the time, Mr. Speaker—described himself on the floor of this House as having been living in a nest of traitors. Whether he did that or not, there is no doubt whatever that in his place in the Senate Chamber, speaking of this transaction, the Premier declared (I have got his words here) that the conduct of his colleagues to him had been unparalleled in British history. And he went on to remark, although not exactly in these words, that he feared they were a set of ruffians who had no reverence for gray hairs. This he said, together with many other remarks of a similar character, which will be found extended at considerable length on the pages of the senatorial "Hansard." I suppose I must believe the statements made by the Premier of this country in his place in the Senate, and I will endeavour to do my duty accordingly. Similarly, Sir, I feel that when the Minister of Finance, speaking for himself and friends, and speaking, mind you, not lightly, but speaking from a document carefully prepared and revised; when that gentleman, with exceedingly little circumspection, declared in the course of the document that the Premier of Canada was an old fool, and an obstinate one at that—

Mr. FOSTER. "Ipsissima verba."

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Well, I think that is an accurate if not a literal translation. I suppose, Mr. Speaker, I must believe the Finance Minister, too, when he made that declaration. I suppose it is my duty to believe him, and I will endeavour to do my duty on this occasion as always. Now, so far the case is plain sailing, because, Mr. Speaker, you will observe—and I call the attention of the House carefully to the fact—you will observe that the statements made by the Premier and the Minister of Finance are not at all necessarily irreconcilable. In point of fact, some people have said that they go far respectively each to prove the other. But, Sir, I am in a little dilemma. What am I to do if a case should arise in which two of these hon. gentlemen should contradict each other, and that is a possibility. Light may arise out of the darkness, even if it is from the lurid illumination which may be shed by certain threatened lawsuits on the subject, but as yet we are in darkness. However, one great difficulty has been taken out of my way. Sir, it has been my privilege, and I have no doubt it has been yours, to peruse certain affectionate letters—I might almost call them an amatory correspondence—which lately passed between my esteemed friend the Postmaster General and another eminent member of the late confraternity. Sir, I feel it my duty for purposes of illus-