

site for many years. Succeeding him fell that other great man Sir John Abbott, whose work is also recognized most thoroughly by Canadians now of every class; and succeeding him and abused as was his predecessors, Sir John Thompson now sleeps in the soil of his native province, notwithstanding the abuse of hon. gentlemen opposite through successive years, wrapped in the robes of a nation's honour and embalmed in the bitterness of a nation's tears. Though those men are gone, though we mourn them, though their colleagues and old supporters mourn them, though we are glad to know that Canadians mourn them because while they mourn them it is a testimony to the work and worth of the Conservative party as well. I want to tell the hon. leader of the Opposition that the Conservative party of this country is not built on men, but is built on principles, and though those leaders have gone the principles live, and when it appeals to the electors, as we must do very soon, he will find the same old vitality and the same old strength put forth in the campaign, and that the same old victories will perch upon our banners as of yore. This fact he should have considered, that since Sir John Macdonald's death we have won from them, no less than 18 seats; hon. gentlemen opposite have won from us 4 seats. If the hon. gentleman can take any comfort out of that, instead of having been educated at a Scotch school, as he told the people in the province of Ontario, was the case, it seems to me he must have been educated at Dean Swift's Academy at Lagado, where they learned the science of extracting sunbeams from cucumbers. I want to say to my hon. friend that I was somewhat astonished to hear the charge that we were afraid to go to the elections. A few months ago when it was thought we were going to the contest, what was the cry? The cry then was in column after column of the Toronto "Globe," that we ought not to go, and His Excellency was advised in column after column in that newspaper not to permit us a dissolution because we had no right to appeal to the country; apparently hon. gentlemen were then not spoiling for the fray. And the hon. gentleman who sits for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), who is the leading constitutional authority upon the other side of the House, discovered a new constitutional reason which he urged before the people why the Government should not dissolve Parliament and appeal to the country, and what was that reason? That there was too much snow upon the ground and elections could not be advantageously held. It was not the snow that was upon the ground, but the snow that was to fall that disturbed the peace of hon. gentlemen opposite when they thought they had to face the electors. I want to say to hon. gentlemen opposite that the Conservatives of this country are not afraid of the people. We have appealed to them in the

past and have not had very much reason to complain. We are willing to abide by the judgment of the people; hon. gentlemen opposite seem never willing to abide by the judgment of the people. The hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) has constantly expressed his want of confidence in the people; but the people are even with him, for they have voted their want of confidence repeatedly in that hon. gentleman. Sir, the debate has taken this line: an attack upon the members of the Government, an attack particularly upon a want of ability, it is said, that has been demonstrated by my hon. friend the Finance Minister, who leads this House so ably, and who is no unworthy successor of the distinguished men who have occupied during so many years the place in which he sits in the Parliament of Canada. I wish to say to the hon. member for South Oxford that while members of the Government may not have the confidence of their opponents, we do enjoy the confidence of our friends; and, thank God, no member of this Government has had to go back to his constituency to fight with his friends to get the party nomination with which to go to the people. Sir, the hon. member of South Oxford cannot say that. For many years that hon. gentleman was wandering up and down the province of Ontario and at last secured a resting place. I took occasion some years ago in the course of a speech in this House to say that that resting place would tire of him, and my prophecy came true only a few months ago when the hon. gentleman was seeking re-nomination in the constituency of South Oxford. What did they say there? He was wrathful and he abused them without stint; and when he found it was difficult to get the nomination—I do not know to whom he referred—when he found men conspiring against him—he referred to some one on his right or left or behind him, when he said this in the convention:

But he would ask, if it was true that the men be worthy of confidence, who, while pretending to be friendly, were plotting against a colleague. Fair fighting is one thing and assassination is another. While you may call for the head of an enemy, it is not fair warfare to stab a friend under the fifth rib.

And, Sir, it was not a mere local matter, for it was published with the very greatest care by the Toronto "Globe" in order that all and sundry, to use the idiomatic expression of the hon. gentleman opposite, might know exactly what he meant. There came a time, however, when the matter was settled. That time was when a gentleman in Toronto wrote a letter into the riding, a gentleman who had recently been organizer of the Liberal party, stating:

That, in view of the active canvas being made for the Liberal nomination, it might not be uninteresting to Mr. Jackson (to whom he was writing) to know that, when it was decided by the