

introduced last year, with a view to giving my Bill precedence over that of my hon. friend. With the permission of the House, I will relate the facts connected with the case. After my hon. friend from Stanstead had introduced his Bill, and I had also introduced mine, I went to the Clerk to see my hon. friend's Bill, with a view of comparing it with mine, and ascertaining whether his Bill was for a repeal pure and simple, and whether it contained other dispositions respecting insolvency. The answer of the Clerk was that my hon. friend had sent no Bill, but a blank. I returned to my seat and in a few minutes afterwards you, Mr. Speaker, intimated to me by a sign of your hand that you wanted to see me. I went to you, and, while standing by your Chair, you showed me a couple of copies of Mr. Colby's Bill, and offered them to me. I told you one would be sufficient. Then you told me to take the French copy, and that I could keep it, whilst you kept the English copy. These are the facts exactly as I know them, and as they were in this matter. I never had any idea of keeping my hon. friend's Bill from the Clerk, or of keeping it in my desk for the purpose of giving my Bill precedence. I would scorn such conduct as unworthy of a gentleman. I desire now to read a few lines which are entitled "Parliamentary Notes," and which were published in the *Montreal Gazette*:

OTTAWA, February 17th.

"To-day's was short and sweet, the House rising at 4 o'clock. After clearing off a very scanty order paper, the probable discussion on the second reading of Mr. Colby's Insolvency Repeal Bill being struck off by some unaccountable difference between the one as handed to the Speaker and that produced by the Clerk, the latter turning out to be a copy of Mr. Béchard's measure of last year. The little foundlings had been changed by someone, and eventually it turned up in Mr. Béchard's desk, thus exactly completing the parallel to the thrilling adventures of the true heir who, notwithstanding all machinations, comes to his own at last. To say the least, it is curious that this episode should occur just when there is such rivalry between the two sides of the House as to who should introduce the measure, and Mr. Mackenzie's attempt to rule out Mr. Colby's Bill, on the strength of the alleged discrepancy, tallied oddly with the place where it was discovered."

I thought, these insinuations having been made, that it was due both to the House and myself, that I should offer

these explanations, to vindicate my character against slanderous insinuations.

Mr. COLBY: I extremely regret that these insinuations should have been made against my hon. friend, who, I am quite sure, never contemplated the act of deliberately appropriating the Bill which I submitted, for the purpose of getting precedence. I regret that any misapprehension should have arisen out of the circumstances connected with it, for I am sure my hon. friend, whom I have known ever since I entered this House, is quite incapable of conduct of that kind. But, while my hon. friend has been a martyr to the newspapers, I wish also to take this opportunity to do what I have never had occasion to do before, to bring a little matter which is personal to myself, and arose out of the same question, before the attention of the House. I see by a recent newspaper published in this Dominion that, in connection with the very same matter, I have been charged with having perpetrated a trick, in order to gain petty applause. The concluding paragraph of the article referred to is as follows:—

"It may be so, but Mr. Colby's course is very unlike that usually pursued by the member for Stanstead, and resembles rather a specimen of Yankee smartness and trickery, which might be expected in the United States Congress but not in a British House of Representatives."

The article is headed an "Un-British Trick." I also have observed, in two other newspapers, paragraphs of a similar purport, although not couched in precisely the same language. I think it but fair to the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, and to myself, that any misapprehensions which have arisen out of this matter should be disproved by a clear statement of the facts, for, while I should extremely regret that my hon. friend should rest under an unjust imputation, he would, I am sure, equally regret that I should be misrepresented in the same way. I took the opportunity of giving notice, upon the first day of the meeting of Parliament, of the introduction of two Bills on subjects in which I have taken a very great interest in former years: one concerning the Insolvency Act, and the other in reference to petroleum. These notices went upon