

majority in the House of Commons appear to have attached but little significance to Mr. *Huntington's* accusations, for they negated his motion without even requiring my Ministers to reply to it, and I do not imagine that any one of them contemplated a renewal of the Session on the 13th of August. But though the conduct of the majority who confided in the Government is easily understood, the procedure of the Members of the Opposition is more difficult to explain. They had in their possession, it is to be presumed, what they considered convincing proofs of the corruption of Ministers. The matter had been referred to the adjudication of a committee, and according to the theory of the prosecution, could have but one result. Strong in these convictions, they should never have allowed the announcement of Prorogation to have passed unchallenged, but should have resorted to every means known to the constitution by which such a consummation could have been precluded. Indeed, so obvious was their duty in this respect, that their opponents have attributed to them a deliberate intention of allowing the dispersion of the majority to take place *sub silentio*, with a view to the packing of a House with their own adherents on the day to which it had adjourned, an operation to them exceptionally easy, as the Parliamentary strength of the Ministers lies principally in the Maritime and outlying Provinces, while their own is close at home in the central region of Ontario and Quebec. The subsequent publication in the newspapers of the documents now known as the *Allan* and *McMullen* correspondence is pointed to as having been a move in aid of the same unworthy policy, by supplying a sudden and unexpected pretext for insisting on the immediate intervention of Parliament at a time when the Ministerial supporters were dispersed.

I do not, however, myself attach the slightest credit to this injurious insinuation. Although undoubtedly party strife is conducted in this country with less reticence and generosity than at home, and although the combatants "strike below the waistcoat" more frequently than could be wished, my personal knowledge of the leaders of the Opposition convinces me that such a design would be quite foreign to their natures. My own opinion is, that from first to last, they found themselves impeded by the initial mistake in tactics,—as I ventured at the time to consider it,—committed by Mr. *Huntington* in not re-enforcing his motion by the production of some of the documents on which it was founded. Had he done so, Parliament would undoubtedly have listened to him with greater respect, and Mr. *Dorion's* motion might perhaps have been carried: for though Mr. *Huntington's* case is far from being proved, no one can now deny that if he was in possession of the *Allan* correspondence at the time he demanded his Committee, he had a right to require an investigation of the suspicious circumstances thus brought to his knowledge. The premature disclosure of his hand could not have been the objection, for a sufficiency of "*pièces justificatives*" for his purpose have since been produced. As it was, he could not convince the House of the urgency of the affair, and discouraged by their repeated defeats, the Opposition, I imagine, gave up all hopes of being able to persuade Parliament to dispute the arrangements of the triumphant minister. Be that as it may, it is certain that the day after the adjournment, most of the Members of both Houses dispersed themselves in different directions, some to their homes, some to the States, and some to Europe, without any more intention of returning to Ottawa, on the 13th of August, than myself.

On the 2nd July, Mr. *Cameron's* Committee met in Montreal, but in the meantime I had received an intimation from Your Lordship that the Oaths Bill had been disallowed by the Queen in Council, and I had made the fact public by Proclamation.

Immediately on receipt of this intelligence, communications had passed between Sir *John Macdonald* and myself as to the course to be pursued. Sir *John* was inclined to issue a Commission to the Members of the Committee, but as he hesitated to do so from an unwillingness to expose the Crown to the rejection of its mandate, I addressed him in the following terms:—

"THE CITADEL, QUEBEC, June 28th, 1873.

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th. I am sure you are quite