

sequently withdrew the bill on being informed by Mr. Tobin that a large number of merchants were opposed to it, and that it would provoke discussion. It was understood that no new bills would be introduced that would cause debate.

Hon Mr SHANNON also introduced a bill concerning the erection of buildings in the city of Halifax; it was rendered necessary for the preservation of the public health.

The House then went into committee and passed a number of bills, viz.:

To amend the act incorporating the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Lunenburg.

To incorporate the Salt Works Company.

To extend the time for prepayment of a loan to Pictou.

To alter and amend chap. relating to Mines and Minerals.

To amend chap 94, Deep Sea Fisheries.

To regulate Poors' Asylum in Halifax.

The bill relative to Middle River Congregation was not pressed, at the suggestion of Mr. C. J. Campbell and the Financial Secretary, who thought it advisable to allow such questions to be settled amicably outside of the House.

The committee rose, and the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, May 1.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr MILLER said he wished to avail himself of this opportunity of replying to some of the slanders and misrepresentations which had appeared in reference to himself in a portion of the public press. A fortnight ago, or thereabouts, an exciting debate had taken place in which the hon member for East Halifax had occupied a position in which no member of that House ever stood before, presenting a spectacle which must convince the country that if there was a man whose utterances were entitled to no respect, it was that gentleman. On that occasion Mr Annand had brought two charges against his (Mr M's) veracity, which had been conclusively met and exposed on the instant;—first as to the conversation with hon Geo Brown, in reference to which he (Mr A) had said that the report of the conversation as detailed by him (Mr M) was incorrect;—the second in reference to the Inverness petitions. Yet, on the following day, the hon member had the honour to announce in the *Chronicle* that he had succeeded in bringing home a charge against him. If the individual who inspired that journal made this charge publicly, in his proper person, it would be as harmless as the idle words, because to enable one man to injure another by fixing any charge on him, it was requisite the accusation should proceed from an individual who possessed some character—otherwise the attempt merely exhibited the baseness of the source from which the charge proceeded, and would recoil on him who made it.

At the instance of Mr S. Campbell the galleries were cleared, but subsequently re-opened.

Mr Miller continued:—He did not feel it necessary to make these observations merely because Mr Annand, in the *Chronicle*, had slandered him, but because there were many persons who were not sufficiently intelligent to discriminate between

the statements of that journal, which were merely the effusions of the member for East Halifax, and the public opinion which it pretended, however falsely, to reflect. He asked who was there less able than the member for East Halifax to make improper charges, or who should be more backward in maligning and slandering another? That member's name recently appeared appended to an address to Her Majesty the Queen, the first paragraph of which contained an expression of the loyalty of those who signed it, and yet one had only to turn back his recollection a short time to recall the period when the hon member expressed the wish that the day would come when "the stars and stripes would wave over citadel hill!" Was the man who could utter such a traitorous sentiment as that in a position to make a charge against another?—Within a few weeks the same member had been guilty of a similar crime, and had been heard expressing the wish in the public streets "that 50,000 Fenians would land in Canada." And nevertheless this was the man who applied the term "traitor" to members who were acting in accordance with the declared wishes and policy of the Queen's Government and the best interests of the country. The humiliating apology made by the hon member, suffused with shame as he stood when charged with these expressions, was ample proof of the correctness of the assertions in reference to the position which he occupied. The man who thus stood convicted of treason by his own admission was the man who used the press under his control to disseminate falsehoods, scatter seditious sentiments, broadcast over the country, and create the worst feelings for the worst purposes. Mr Annand had brought forward letters from his friends to exculpate himself from this last charge of treasonable conduct, but it would be recollected that those letters conclusively established his guilt.—The hon member had suppressed them in the publication of his speech, and had declined to lay them on the table. But what more? In his speech on the Resolution for Union that gentleman had asserted that he had been offered "money place and preferment" if he would support Confederation. These words were taken down by a number of gentlemen, and were telegraphed to Mr Brown who pronounced the assertion a "villainous falsehood." At the conclusion of that speech he (Mr M) rose and stated a report of that conversation given to him by Mr Annand at the time, and the reply then made was that he had not related correctly what was reported as having passed, while on the following day the member for East Halifax admitted that his (Mr M's) statement was substantially correct. These facts appeared in the official reports. That hon member had done more—he denied having used the word money in connection with Mr Brown's name. A dozen gentlemen instantly contradicted him from their notes, and the official report shewed that his denial was incorrect. What was the veracity of such a man worth? If he, Mr Miller, had been compelled to admit himself guilty of traitorous