

men from the Maritime Provinces, notably the sons of Erin the Green, one of whom, who is a distinguished advocate in his Province, remarking :—

“The failure to give a French Minister in this Chamber to be the organ of the French nationality is a palpable violation of the 133rd clause of the British North America Act, at least if that clause is not to be a delusion and a snare.” I perceive again the violation of that arrangement, of that custom, of that usage which has always existed, to give alternately in each Parliament the presidency of the one or the other Chamber to a member speaking the French language.

I perceive again a violation of the British Constitution which requires that in the House of Lords there shall be as many or more Ministers than in the House of Commons. Why are there as many, and even more Ministers in the House of Lords than in the Commons? Because in that branch of the Legislature the laws are perfected : it is because in England they have a profound knowledge of the human heart ; because they know there are always men who flatter power, men who are inclined to adore the rising sun and who consider the Ministers “sicut deos,” the gods of Olympia assuredly.

I am pained, hon. gentlemen, to see that these violations are perpetrated by the party with which I, for one, have felt it a duty and an honor to belong, not merely since I have been called to the counsels of the nation by the voice of the people and by that of the Crown, but during all my life. I wish to be just towards the hon. leader of the Government in this House, who has declared that he regretted this omission, and that justice ought to be rendered to us very soon. I do not wish to be too severe upon him or the hon. Premier who sits in the House of Commons, for I do not pretend to blame these two hon. gentlemen and their colleagues for what a group of my young compatriots would have them do. It appears that several persons, notably one, went to the Premier, and intimated to him, as on another occasion Gambetta did to McMahon, “It is imperative that we should have in the House of Commons the quantum of Ministers accorded to our Province, and you must either grant this or resign.” Is it thus that the hon. Premier was obliged to give way through

fear, or did he make that concession to them as the Greeks gave presents? Or did he try to put in practice the perfidious counsel of Lord Durham against my nationality when he said in England, in making his report on his voyage in Canada, “If you wish to divide the French Canadians, give them the most honorable or lucrative positions”? No, I do not believe it : for the sympathy which the true friends of Sir George have always manifested with regard to the Right Hon. Premier, would not permit them to suppose him guilty of such ingratitude. Here, hon gentlemen, I should declare that I do not fear these Greek presents, or the perfidious counsel of Lord Durham against my nationality, if all my compatriots were imbued with the disinterested ideas of Sir George Etienne Cartier, that man of character, and of energy, whose memory will remain like a beacon in history for the intelligent youth of my country to fix their attention upon, and say to themselves in moments of crisis and discouragement, “can we not do as Sir George Cartier did?”

A single example amongst a thousand will suffice to prove the disinterestedness of that upright man whilst he was at the helm of the affairs of his country. Some friends of his, his supporters, came to him to ask a public office for one of his own brothers. After having looked at each one of them he said “my friends, my good devoted friends, my faithful followers, learn that I do not think as those families do who believe that they are entitled to live at the public crib, as those families who believe that they are constituted pensioners of the Government. That is not because I disdain such employment, but because there are always plenty who covet such positions. I thank you for my brother and hope that he will always possess sufficient energy to earn his bread and maintain his family otherwise than by becoming a salaried official of the State.”

Now to return to the Right Hon. Premier, I must say that whatever may have been the motives which influenced him to yield to certain young gentlemen in the Commons and grant them the quantum of ministers accorded to my Province, it is not what Sir Louis Hypolite LaFontaine, nor his other self, Sir Robert Baldwin, these two fathers and founders of