

has not one cent ever stuck to our hands, but it is the simple fact, to my own certain knowledge, that each one of us left office poorer by thousands of dollars than he entered it, or than he would have been if he had never accepted it, and the same is true, I believe, of every one of Mr. Mackenzie's other colleagues. (Loud applause.) Gentlemen, if you do not like this way of doing public business and if you want other models—"smart" men, who understand how to make politics pay, you have not far to seek. You will find them ready to your hand in great plenty among the Langevins, and the Popes, and the Chapleaus, and the Tom Whites, and the Rykerts, and the Boulthees, and the Beatys, and the Hickeys, and all the rest of the horde of creeping things that buzz, and crawl, and sting round the portals of Ottawa, ready to play pander and parasite to any man who has grasped the reins of power, and who is willing to gorge their greed with timber leases, and coal areas, and "testimonials," and railway grants, and permits to plunder the lands and minerals of the territory formally awarded to Ontario. (Loud applause.)

Now, I certainly do not wish to deter you from taking part in politics. I have no sort of sympathy with the cowardice which keeps some men out of the ring, and still less with the mock pretence of superior purity which would let all sorts of infamies go unpunished, because, forsooth, active politics are too rough and coarse and unpleasant for

THOSE DAINTY GENTRY

to meddle with. On the contrary, I am emphatically of opinion that it is the plain and clear duty of every man who can do so to take his fair share of political work, and that it is just as much his duty, and (rightly understood) just as high a duty to devote a reasonable proportion of his time and means to the service of his country in this way, as to give of his time and means in support of the particular religious body to which he belongs.

Politics, Mr. Chairman, if honourably practised, is one of the noblest vocations, just as, and for the same reason as, it is rightly held, one of the vilest of trades, if originally engaged in or subsequently carried on for the purpose of making money. That is the true meaning of Dr. Johnson's famous saying that "patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." What the good doctor (who was a genuine patriot himself, according to his lights) really meant is that patriotism is so high and sacred a thing that the false profession of patriotic motives from a sordid desire of gain, marks the man who does that thing as an unutterable rascal, and I am very much of Dr. Johnson's opinion, especially in the case of those who are commonly known as "professional" politicians. Now, it is