

sonal matter. In the course of last week, on Wednesday, the *Free Press*, a Liberal organ in this city, published the following paragraph:—

"Is it true that one of the city's representatives received \$250 from a certain dry goods firm in Ottawa, as a consideration for his services in getting for them the job of supplying carpets to the Government?"

The following day this paragraph appeared in the *Citizen*:

"The interrogatory form of the above paragraph is a cowardly way of stating a base falsehood; but it is in perfect keeping with the disreputable organ's despicable conduct and notoriously mendacious propensities. If the statement were true, if it were not a malicious invention, it would have been made with distinctness, and not in the above contemptible form. We have the authority of both members for saying that there is not the slightest foundation for the statement."

The *Free Press* repeated its charge from day to day, not directly, but by insinuation, and a few days later I sent to it the letter which I will read; but that paper refused to publish it, and I had to publish it in the *Ottawa Citizen*. The letter reads as follows:—

"Editor of the *Free Press* :

"Sir,—I shall consider you as a cowardly slanderer so long as you decline to name the 'city member,' charged by you with having received \$250 for political influence used in the interest of a mercantile firm for securing orders from the Department of Public Works for carpet supplies. Rest assured that so soon as you muster sufficient courage to name the 'city member' referred to, you shall have full opportunity to make good your infamous charge—which, in my own behalf, I deny in the strongest possible terms. In the meantime, the public will stamp as mean and cowardly the subterfuge of dragging in the names of two city representatives—for in either case one must be grossly slandered, both by suspicion and the still more reprehensible insinuation.

"Your obedient servant.

"JOSEPH TASSÉ.

"Ottawa, April 17th, 1882."

The *Free Press* has, since, not withdrawn its statement, nor has it, as challenged, made a direct charge either against my very esteemed and senior colleague Mr. Currier, or myself, and if I rise now it is not with the view of complaining of that paper, because in this city it is well known as one of the most unreliable, unscrupulous and corrupt papers which exist in the whole Dominion. If it were not out of order, I would quote from its files to show that in July, 1874, at the time of the elections, it was then fighting the same battle with us against our friends on the other side, and two months later, as soon as its columns began to be filled with Government advertisements, it commenced to publish splendid eulogiums of those whom it formerly traduced. I do not rise, as I say, to complain of the *Ottawa Free Press*, but as the same slander has been telegraphed by the editor of that paper, Mr. Carrol Ryan—who, I am sorry to say for my confreres on the press, is President of the Gallery—to the *London Advertiser*, I wish to take this opportunity to declare from my seat in this House that the charge made against me by insinuations is nothing but a complete and cowardly slander.

Mr. HESSON. I take this opportunity of calling the attention of the House to the manner in which I have been attacked in the *London Advertiser*. We all know the character of that paper, and if the attack had not been copied in some respectable journals, through mistake or otherwise, I would pay but little regard to it. Had it been confined to local papers, I would not have felt any particular cause for referring to it here, because a man can stand criticism at home, where he is well known. But when an attack of this kind is circulated through the length and breadth of the Dominion, it should be held up to public censure. The article reads as follows:—

"There are two representatives in Parliament from this Province who are entitled to special attention, and we invite it from their constituents. We are opposed to the Administration and to their fiscal policy. We are perfectly aware that many respectable people differ from us and think their fiscal policy statesmanlike. But they surely can find men having some regard to the ordinary proprieties of civilized life to represent them. There are two men on the Tory side from this Province who would be hardly tolerated in a council of Digger Indians. We refer to the renowned Charley Rykert and the pompous Mr. Hesson.

Mr. TASSÉ.

They seem to think that those who are on the Opposition side of politics have no right to be heard, and that it is a part of their duty to groan and whistle, and to make all sorts of disturbing noises when a Reformer rises to speak. It would be difficult to find a man more ignorant and more conceited than Mr. Hesson. He is distinguished for very broad and comprehensive ignorance, and for sufficient self-complacency to supply all his party."

I take this opportunity to deny that I either whistled or groaned in the House, and that I made no disturbing noises, as hon. members can all vouch. I repudiate the whole thing. As to my self-complacency or ignorance, I am prepared to leave it to the judgment of the House and the public. I say this article is a piece of rascality that no man should tolerate, but which is only on a par with the character of the paper which published it.

Mr. CURRIER. With reference to what has been said by my colleague, Mr. Tassé, with respect to what appeared in the *Free Press*, I can endorse every word he uttered as to the character of that paper, and its unjustifiable attack. I have had the honor of holding a seat here for nineteen years, and have never received \$250, or any other sum, from any dry goods establishment since I have occupied a seat in this House; for anything I have been able to do for my constituents, pertaining to my duty as a member, and for the credit of my constituents, I beg to say, that no one of them ever approached me with any such offer or suggested the payment of any sum, small or large, for anything I was able to do for them or that I was called upon to do as pertaining to my duties as a member of the House. I trust it will not be necessary to again make an explanation to the House in consequence of any such attack as that which has been made; I think my colleague (Mr. Tassé) has properly characterized the attack made in the *Free Press*.

DELAY OF MAILS.

Mr. WELDON. I desire to call the attention of the Postmaster General to the delays which have occurred in the mails in the Lower Provinces. In consequence of these frequent delays our correspondence has been delayed twenty-four hours on many occasions.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Sir Charles Tupper for the second reading of Bill (No. 144) to authorize the construction, on certain conditions, of the Canadian Pacific Railway through some other pass than the Yellow Head Pass.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I take now, as I have always taken, a deep interest in everything that concerns the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and, therefore, I listened with the closest attention to the remarks of the hon. the Minister of Railways, in laying before the House a statement of the present condition of that work, as well as its prospects. I only regret that the hon. gentleman chose to make his statement, which was couched throughout in moderate terms, a vehicle for attack on his opponents. I have no objection to the hon. gentleman eulogizing himself as much as he pleases; that we expect, and that he generally contrives to do, so much so that it is quite unnecessary for any person to undertake it. But I think, in making a statement of a great work to the House, he might have refrained from a repetition of some of the charges, or rather insinuations, made in various speeches, that have some remote connection with that work. The hon. gentleman was good enough, in one part of his speech, to take credit to himself for everything done on the road. There was not, he said, when he assumed office in 1878, though we had spent public money during five years on the work, one mile of the road in operation, and he expected within a year to have not less than 900 miles either in operation or close upon it, thus conveying the impression to any stranger who