

gentleman is lame and impotent upon this point. No man in the House knows better than he, that it does not follow, because a charge against another, whether it be directly or indirectly, that therefore it is true. He may talk of the "remarkable" circumstances connected with the Pictou Railway; he may say that all the circumstances connected with it were of a "remarkable character," but that proves nothing against the party against whom he hurls the insinuation. The hon. member is equally at fault when he refers to Ontario constituencies. He says that no constituency has been opened that has not been "from time immemorial" a Conservative constituency. It is quite evident that the hon. gentleman knows as little upon this subject as he does of other matters upon which he has addressed the House. East Northumberland was represented in this House—and he, as Speaker at the time, should know it—by a gentleman who has since been called away, for a large portion of the time since Confederation; but previous to that time, by the late Mr. Biggar, and formerly it was represented by Mr. Ross, brother to the Hon. John Ross. It is one of those constituencies which has been vibrating from one side to the other, and its elections have been governed and controlled more by personal likes and dislikes than probably any other consideration. If the hon. gentleman knew anything of the recent election in that riding, he would know that it was the prejudices of the party with which he has allied himself that defeated Mr. Kennedy; his defeat was more on account of his religion than his politics. Yet we find him who prides himself on belonging to and championing that particular party in this country, standing up in this House and glorifying the result of that election. With regard to West Northumberland, does not the hon. gentleman know that for five years since Confederation it was represented by Mr. Kerr, and does not he know that it was represented by a member of the Liberal party before Confederation, and that it is one of those close constituencies which one party or the other has an equal chance of carrying. It was opened on the recent occasion, not with any fear of the result, and the people expressed their confidence in the policy of the Government, that being the only question which was agitated during that contest; still the hon. gentleman tells us that no constituency has been opened which has not been from time immemorial, what he pleases to term a "Tory constituency." Surely he will not venture to say that Carleton, in his own Province, has been a Tory constituency. We all know that the former representatives of Carleton previous to 1878, were members of the Liberal Parliament of New Brunswick, and that it had been in the hands of the Liberal party for a long time. True the late representative was elected as an Independent, but having become, like many others in that Province as well as in Ontario, so thoroughly disgusted with the policy and the whole conduct of his party, and particularly with the Speaker of the late Parliament, that he could not justify his support of them either to his conscience or to his constituents. They have snatched it for a moment. They have gained their point in that respect, and they are welcome to all the comfort they can extract from that fact. Nor has Pictou always been represented by a Conservative. It was represented in this house by Mr. Carmichael, a friend of the late Government. True, it was opened, and a gentleman brought from the Senate to contest it, and that, too, at a time when we dared not open any constituency in the Maritime Provinces; and he carried it by a larger majority. I had supposed that the result of that election was achieved principally on account of the presence of the Minister of Railways in the constituency, who went there to assist his friends and to prove to the people that the policy of the Government was the true policy for Canada—the one which every patriot should advocate in the interest of his country; but I have now learned that the hon. member for Gloucester

Mr. BOWELL.

(Mr. Anglin) was there, and it is no longer a mystery to me that the majority against that hon. gentleman's candidate was between 200 and 300. It was the same in Colchester. They sent the best politician and the cleverest man they had in Nova Scotia to contest that county with my hon. friend the President of the Council—I refer to Mr. Jones. Those who know him and have heard him in this House are aware that he is a man of talent and of great research, and that he referred to all the old disputes that arose in 1874-75-76, during which time the President of the Council was an Anti; yet, after explanations given to the electors by the President of the Council, as to the cause of his taking the position he had taken, after a thorough investigation into the policy of this Government, that gentleman's presence, like the presence of the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Anglin), in the adjoining constituency, resulted in the election of our candidate by between 400 and 500 majority. I shall not refer particularly to all those questions which have arisen in the present discussion, but I do not think that either the House or the country believes that it lies in the mouth of the leader of the Opposition, or more particularly of the hon. gentleman who sits by his side, to read us lectures upon either constituency or party fidelity. I remember the time when the hon. gentleman was as ardent an admirer of certain gentlemen on this side of the House as any one in the country. I have a distinct recollection, and, perhaps, a little more knowledge than some others, of the reasons which led that hon. gentleman to desert his former leader. I know, also, that when he saw an opportunity of getting place and position by deserting his friends, he did not hesitate to desert them. I know that the present leader of the Opposition was always a restive bird; he could scarcely ever be content, and certainly not content to follow any one; he must always be, to use a familiar expression, "cock of the roost." In the Local Legislature he never was content until he had dispossessed Mr. McKellar, who was the leader of the Reform party. True, Mr. McKellar, like another deposed leader, fell into the traces, and worked under him for a short time. Afterwards he was amply provided for for the remainder of his life, and I certainly am not disposed to find fault with his fortunes. Well, the same course was pursued in this House, and it has been well exposed by the Minister of Railways. Appointment to office, and the giving to a certain person a constituency after he had betrayed his leader, were acts which history will declare to have been the blackest in the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Blake) political history. He did very little better when he came to this House. On various occasions when his conscience would not permit his vote to sustain his leader, he found it convenient, with three or four other members, to exhibit his coat tails, one hon. member passing out of this door, another at that, and two others at a third door. The hon. gentleman has explained to the outside world, at Cobourg I think, that when he found his conscience would not permit him to record a vote in favor of his party and to sustain his leader, he thought it his duty to leave the House. That was a frequent occurrence during the last five or ten years. I have seen him doing it when a Minister on questions affecting myself. The hon. gentleman shakes his head. When the Government, of which he was a member, were attacked for giving a contract to "his friend Moore," he said that as he was personally concerned in the matter he could not record his vote on it, and he walked out of the Chamber. No doubt his conscientious judgment would not allow him by any possibility to record a vote respecting a matter on which he himself had been attacked, however untrue the charge might be. Well, Sir, he followed in this line. The Minister who then led the Government was not, I think, of his liking; and if outside report speaks truly—of course, I speak under correction—he kept that hon. gentleman in a