

arrived at on any question that arises in the country. This Dominion has already suffered too much from long delays in forming opinions and in dealing with important matters.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Oh.

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman is very guilty in that respect. He has dilly-dallied with many important subjects, and dilly-dallied with them so long that to-day strong passions have been aroused which would have been settled if the hon. gentleman had at once taken a firm stand. This is why I denounce the Government to-day. The opinion prevails that the Government is not composed of business men, because the first requisite of business men is to be able to form a decision and form it promptly. I arraign the Government before this country. I arraign them on that charge; I arraign them on their fiscal policy, on their many derelictions of duty, and on this new charge, that they dare not do their duty because it may involve them in many difficulties. I charge them on their own confession with being sadly deficient in the requisites of all Governments—courage, decision, and some capacity to discharge public business.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am gratified at the way in which the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat has referred to the manner in which their duty was discharged by the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address. I am sure it is a matter of great gratification to us all to see among us to-day as a new member, introduced only about twenty-four hours ago, a gentleman who participated in the deliberations of this Chamber twenty years gone by, and who has come among us again to share in the labours of this Parliament, and that he greets us with the patriotic and fervid expressions which we heard from him this afternoon. I am sure my hon. friend from Hochelaga (Mr. Lachapelle), who has been with us two sessions, I believe, surprised us by the manner in which he discharged his duty, by the grace with which he spoke, by the clearance and eloquence of the language which he used. All that the hon. leader of the Opposition said with regard to those hon. gentlemen expressed appropriately the view which is held on this side of the House, as it generously and gracefully expressed the views of his friends on the other side of the House. I need not say much more as to the manner in which those hon. gentlemen discharged their duties, because the hon. leader of the Opposition paid to them what he thought was a supreme compliment when he said their task was a difficult one and a somewhat delicate one because they had to make a good deal out of nothing, and the hon. gentleman continued his address long enough to convince every hon. member of the House that he was a

master in that art himself. I agree, Sir, with all the hon. gentleman said with respect to the coming amongst us of the Earl of Aberdeen and his gracious Countess, and with all that he said with respect to those who left us when His Excellency came. It has been the good fortune in all times past in the history of Canada that when the Governors General have left us they have left us, the warmest friends of this country eager to do her service in every sphere of life and activity in which they move in the country to which they returned. And in this case, while we have the gratification of knowing that Lord Derby is among those friends of Canada who are eager, earnest and outspoken in her interests in the mother country, we have had come to us as his successor, and the successor of his consort, a nobleman and a noble woman, who come eager to do service to Canada, eager to enlist in every public enterprise and in every public charity by which the weal of this country can be promoted. We cannot, therefore, in justice to ourselves and in justice to our people, hesitate to accord them in this assembly allusions to the warm feeling which is inspired in Canadians who find coming to them a ruler full of affection and full of desire to promote their interests. Now, Mr. Speaker, there was another step which I am able to go, and most cordially, too, with the hon. the leader of the Opposition. I say so with pleasure, because the steps that we are able to take together in commenting upon this address are, I regret to say, very few indeed. But I did hear with pleasure the allusions which he made to the success of the representation of Canada at the World's Fair at Chicago, and I heard with gratification his remark that the triumphs achieved in Chicago were principally the triumphs of the Canadian farmers. No statement could be more true, and no statement could be more gratifying than that that class of our people showed their skill, showed their progress, and achieved a triumph for this country, to the disadvantage of the people of every other country with whom they were in competition. I am sure it must have been a matter of profound gratification to the hon. the leader of the Opposition himself—although that gratification was not expressed—that the class of Canadians who achieved that noble triumph for Canada was the class which he and his friends have been depicting as down-trodden and miserable tax-burdened people, who have no prosperity among them, and who are flying from the prosperity which is said to exist in this country. The hon. gentleman was willing—in view of the triumph which these men had achieved for their country and of the exhibition which they had made of the prosperity and progress of Canada—to admit graciously that this country was blessed in many respects, blessed in climate, blessed in resources, blessed in natural means of communication and facility of transportation, but cursed in many other respects. The