

What is it that might be called treason in this case. If being convinced as I was that this want of confidence motion of Mr. Lynch was what the interest of the Province required, I had voted against it because it was obnoxious to the vanity or the personal advantage of the Ministers, then, gentlemen, I would have been a traitor, traitor to my conscience, to my duty, to my country. I thank God that I was courageous enough to vote as I did, for I would feel dreadfully ashamed of myself now, if I had voted the other way. And, gentlemen, I shall at the next general elections call for your approbation or disapprobation of the course which I followed on this occasion; when I came back from Quebec, about the latter part of August, I felt so disgusted with politics, with the unsatisfactory way that the public business was carried on, with those incessant personal attacks and re-terminations which made public life a burden, that I had decided to leave the field and to have nothing more to do with politics; but now, gentlemen, I have changed my mind; I have now a strong hope that matters will be righted, that this is the dawn of a prosperous era for the Province, and I believe now that I can help to do some good for my country; I shall be a candidate again, if I am living; and if you don't want me, all you have to do will be to say so with your votes; but I shall not leave the ship now, until you turn me out.

Gentlemen, I have great hopes in the new administration, it contains two members from the Liberal side of the house, and this will be a guarantee that our views and ideas will be respected. Then we have a treasurer who has the reputation of being rather close-fisted, (not a very bad quality for a Provincial treasurer, just now). You know the esteem which I always had for Mr. Lynch, even when we did not agree politically, but the man who, I hope, will do the most for the good of the country, is the present Prime Minister. He and I have known each other for a good many years; we have had a good many hard knocks together politically; but our personal friendship has never been disturbed for one instant. I have

heard accusations of corruption or dishonesty made against him, but I never saw the proof of any; he also has been called hard names; but I have always tried to believe every man innocent, until I had satisfactory proof of his guilt. I don't believe that any good results come from that unfortunate habit which we have of recklessly dragging our political adversaries in the mud. I have been of opinion that Mr. Chapleau had made mistakes; I said so in the House and out of the House; but I am happy to say that I never accused him of any personal dishonesty, no more than I would now stoop to accuse Mr. Joly, or any of his colleagues of dishonesty, no more than in April, 1878, I would consent to take stock in an accusation of that kind, which was then suddenly made against my adversary; but it is as to ability that Mr. Chapleau has no superior; a better orator, a harder working and more experienced politician cannot be found in the Province of Quebec, in my opinion, and I am not alone of that opinion, like a piece of gold, the more you rub him, the brighter he is. Why then should I refuse to give him a fair and independent support? Why should I imagine that he will be mean enough to use his great talent otherwise than for the good of his country.

Gentlemen, if I had not already detained you so long, I might give you some other reasons which go incidentally to show that the usefulness of the Joly administration had ceased to exist, when they resigned. Let me allude *en passant*, —to that old federal account, out of which the late treasurer managed to squeeze half a million of dollars to help to make the ends meet last year; you must not forget that Mr. McKenzie is not in power any longer at Ottawa; don't you think that if we are going to apply for another round sum, our chances are a good deal better with a Quebec Administration, friendly to the present Ottawa Government?—to the proposed sale of the Q. M. O. & O. Railroad to the Federal Government to form a link of the Pacific railroad; this is very much to be desired to lighten the burden of your Provincial debt, but don't you think again that Mr. Chapleau can ob-