

terprise, and branding as an Annexationist the presumptuous politician who dared at once to propose an interference with its prosecution and himself to come forward as an independent leader of the Opposition. This time, however, Mr. Blake stood firm; and the effect of his firmness soon appeared. The next editorial betrayed, what one of our contemporaries called in language graphic, though perhaps not classical, "a decided weakening towards Mr. Blake." The Grit journal made haste to put away the reproach which had evidently been addressed to it behind the scenes, of playing into the hands of the Tory Government, and its party chastity was vindicated in an amusing way, at the expense of poor Sir Charles Tupper. Sir Charles, finding himself under the mistletoe of patriotism with the *Globe*, ventured to steal a kiss. He must have been rather taken aback by the gentle dame's response:

"We admit that we have not done justice to Sir Charles Pecksniff, but who could? It is as impossible to truly set him forth as to traduce him. He used his position as Minister of his own Province to feather his nest at the public expense in other cases besides that of the Springhill coal mine. He is certainly the most corrupt administrator that ever held office in Canada. He jobbed with the Carillon contractors as soon as he had succeeded to Mr. Mackenzie's department; he handed over sections A. and B. of the Thunder Bay Branch to his friends at a loss to the country of \$634,958; his intimates are the contract-brokers and "sharks" of the Capital. Select at random six men of his own party, and at least four of them will say in private that, 'it is impossible to stand Tupper.' Under such circumstances Tupper may forgive the *Globe*, but the *Globe* cannot forgive Tupper. He is a nuisance to be abated."

This, it must be owned, is very pleasant reading for the members of a community, which, for the purposes of a great national enterprise, has entrusted the expenditure of a hundred millions to "Sir Charles Pecksniff's" hands.

The debate, especially the speech of Mr. Blake, brought again to the mind of the country the history of an enterprise, utterly out of proportion, as every sane man will in private say, to the resources of the nation undertaken without surveys, without