

"siderately dealt with by the press, to whom the press of every political complexion has
 "shown indulgence and good will, it is myself, and it is most natural and
 "by no means an uncomplimentary circumstance, that the organs of different shades
 "of opinion should persuade themselves that the Governor General must necessarily
 "be of their way of thinking, and see through their spectacles.. (Laughter.)
 "But what I wish to say once for all, and I do not care how widely this remark is
 "disseminated, is this—that there is no human being who is authorized to make any
 "statement or suggestion as to what my opinion or sentiments may be in respect of any
 "political topic, or who has ever been in a position, or is likely to be in a position, to make
 "anything approaching to a conjecture upon points of this description. It is true,
 "my object and my desire is to inform my mind upon every subject affecting the interest
 "of the country, by conversation and by discussion with any one who can afford me
 "instruction or information; and it would be very unfortunate for me if this freedom
 "of intercourse with all classes and parties in Canada, from which I derive so much
 "benefit and pleasure, should be trammelled by the dread lest this casual intercourse
 "should become the foundation for inference, comment or conjecture in the press. No,
 "gentlemen, I understand my duty too well ever to allow my judgment or my sympathies
 "to be surprised into political partizanship. My one thought and desire is the welfare
 "of Canada as a whole. To maintain her honour, to promote her prosperity, to do my
 "duty by her and her entire people, is the sole object of my ambition. When I converse
 "with your public men, it scarcely ever occurs to me to remember to what political party
 "they belong. I only see in them persons devoting themselves, each according to his
 "lights, to the service of his country. My only guiding star in the conduct and mainten-
 "ance of my official relations with your public men is the Parliament of Canada. (Cheers.)
 "In fact, I suppose I am the only person in the Dominion whose faith in the wisdom and
 "the infallibility of Parliament is never shaken. (Great laughter.) Each of you,
 "gentlemen, only believe in Parliament so long as Parliament acts according to your
 "wishes—(cheers and laughter)—and convictions. I gentlemen, believe in Parliament
 "no matter which way it votes—(laughter)—and to those men alone whom the deliberate
 "will of the confederated Parliament of the Dominion may assign to me as my responsible
 "advisers can I give my confidence. (Cheers.) Whether they are the heads of this party
 "or of that party must be a matter of indifference to the Governor-General. (Cheers.)
 "So long as they are maintained by Parliament in their position, so long is he bound to
 "give them his unreserved confidence, to defer to their advice, and loyally to assist them
 "with his counsels. (Applause.) Whenever, in the vicissitudes of party warfare, they
 "are replaced by others—(laughter)—he welcomes their successors with an equally open and
 "loyal regard. (Cheers.) Such private friendships as he may have formed he may have
 "a right to retain. (Hear, hear.) As a reasonable being he cannot help having
 "convictions upon the merits of different policies—(hear)—but these considerations are
 "abstract, speculative and devoid of practical effect on his official relations. (Cheers.)
 "As the head of a constitutional State, as engaged in the administration of Parliamentary
 "Government, he has no political friends; still less need he have political enemies.
 "(Great cheering.) The possession, or even to be suspected of possessing either, destroys
 "his usefulness. (Loud cheers.) Sometimes, of course, no matter how disconnected he
 "personally may be with what is taking place, his name will get dragged into some
 "controversy, and he may suddenly find himself the subject of hostile criticism by the
 "press of whatever party may for the moment be out of humor. (Laughter.) But, under
 "these circumstances, he must console himself with the reflection that these spasmodic
 "castigations—(laughter)—are as transitory and innocuous—(great laughter)—as the
 "discipline applied occasionally to their idols by the unsophisticated worshippers of
 "Mumbo Jumbo—(immense laughter)—when their harvests are short or a murrain
 "visits their flocks. (Cheers.) For, gentlemen, of this I am certain: although he may
 "sometimes err in his judgment, or fail in serving you as effectually as he might desire,
 "a Viceroy who honestly seeks to do his duty—(cheers)—to whom the interests of Canada