

the rules and privileges of Parliament, he had subscribed the oath and been presented to the Speaker, I felt that this practice should be followed. I took the oaths yesterday, and I then supposed that no doubt could arise with regard to my taking my seat. I believed that I had a right to my seat; but, when that objection was made by my hon. friend who leads this side of the House, it seemed to my mind fit that I should place myself in a proper position before the House. When, as the House knows, and the country knows, that owing to the objection taken from the other side of the House last Session, I found that I had unwittingly placed myself in such a position that great doubt existed as to whether I had the right to take my seat or not, I felt, as I feel now, that I should wipe off and remove the objection made against me; and having done so—having gone back for re-election in my county, at considerable inconvenience to myself, and to the great inconvenience of the numerous majority in my county who so nobly sustained me—I say I did not deserve the slur which was thrown out against my having taken my seat yesterday when I was ignorant as to whether I had the right to take my seat or not; and what I would further remark is that, wishing to set myself right with the country, I do not think that the fact of my innocently having so taken my seat, and having innocently infringed the rules of the House affords any justification for such comment; and when I attempt to set myself right and place myself in such a position that no man on either side of the House can raise the question or the slightest doubt about Peter Mitchell taking his seat, or the right of the county of Northumberland to send me here, I think it comes with no very good grace to make such a remark on my seeking to remove the only difficulty that exists with regard to my possession of my seat in this House.

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

A Message from His Excellency the Governor General, by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:—

Mr. SPEAKER,

His Excellency the Governor-General desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Senate Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House, went up to the Senate Chamber;—and then

Mr. Speaker spoke to the following effect:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me. If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am.

The Speaker of the Senate then said:—

Mr. SPEAKER,

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor-General to assure you that your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

And the House being returned,—

ZEPHIRIN DÉSIRÉ *alias* OLIVIER DÉSIRÉ BOURBEAU, Esq., Member for Drummond and Arthabaska; JACQUES MALOUIN, Esq., Member for Quebec Centre; and FRANÇOIS XAVIER OVIDE MÉTHOT, Esq., Member for Nicolet, were respectively introduced to the House, and took their seats.

#### BEAUCE CONTROVERTED ELECTION.

##### JUDGE'S REPORT.

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Hon. Mr. Justice Bossé, one of the Judges selected for the trial of Election Petitions, pursuant to the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, 1874, his judgement in the matter of the Controverted Election for the Electoral District of Beauce.

##### NEW MEMBER.

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that the Clerk of the House had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery,—Certificate of the election and return of the Hon. Peter Mitchell, to represent the Electoral District of Northumberland, N. B.