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Cartwright,
Richard.



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SPEECH
—OF—
SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT
AT INGERSOLL,
Nov. 14th, 1889.



After some preliminary remarks, Sir Richard proceeded as follows :—As you are aware, I have always inculcated the duty of plain speaking on public affairs, and in that respect, at any rate, I think I may say that I have not failed to practice what I preach. In fact, it has not infrequently been made a charge against me, not merely by my opponents, but by some of our own weaker brethren, that I have at times quite outstepped the limits of moderation and have called a spade a spade much too plainly to please those worthy persons who think with the old French lady that a sin is not at all so serious a sin if the offenders occupy a sufficiently good position in society, and who declared, as regarded one particular offender, "that Providence would think twice before damning a man of his quality."

Such, my friends, is not my creed nor my practice either. I have never yet been able to see that there was any sufficient ground for adopting a different standard of morality in public than in private life. I cannot see that it is at all a lesser crime to take a large sum from the public treasury than a small sum from a private till.

FALSEHOOD AND FRAUD THE SAME IN ALL RANKS.

I cannot see that falsehood and fraud are any less serious offences when committed by men in high position than when committed by men in low, and if the charge against me be that I have held and acted on this opinion I plead guilty at once.

On this present occasion I wish more particularly to call your attention to certain matters which occurred during the late session and to present to you certain considerations in regard to the probable effects of the trade policy of the Liberal party which have not been much dwelt upon as yet.

1889