

the position in this House that he occupies to-day. But this is an age of improvement, an age of progress. That hon. gentleman's opinion was not always very favourable to the Senate, I must say, and I hope that he finds himself comfortable here to-day. I may quote from some former speeches of my hon. friend to show how times change, and what we say to-day, may be quoted a long time afterwards. I hold here in my hand the Commons Hansard of 1875. My hon. friend, speaking in the House of Commons about the constitution of the Senate, and who was likely to be found in the upper chamber, said :

Is it the artisan, the agriculturist, the lawyer of good standing? No, you get none of these; you find a few wealthy merchants and retired bankers and defeated politicians, and when you go behind this last there is nothing.

That was his opinion, but he went even farther. I hope that he will find something more than he then predicted he would find there :

It was said by a gentleman who, when appointed to the Senate, found himself among gentlemen very much his senior in years, that he expected to be with those who lived two or three generations ago, but to his surprise he found himself with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when he took his seat in that chamber.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—In the kingdom of Heaven.

Hon. Mr. McCALLUM—Does he find that here to-day? He said even worse of this House—something more surprising than that. He said that the Senate was a "Magdalen asylum for political prostitutes and broken down politicians retained by the government." Well I hope my hon. friend may live long to enjoy the position he is occupying here. I do not say that the hon. gentleman meant that earnestly. I do not quote his former utterances to attack him, but to show what a change has taken place in his opinion of this House. I know this, that my hon. friend was always opposed to the composition of the Senate, the mode of appointment; that he was always in favour of having the Senate appointed by the local legislatures. I have always disagreed with him in that, and if we cross the line and see what goes on in the United States in the appointment of senators, I think it will be admitted that our mode is preferable to theirs. I do not

mean to say—far from it—that he is a broken down politician, although he got defeated in his own county at the last elections. That has happened to us all, and I do not intend to say any more about it. But I am glad to see him in the position he occupies here, and I hope he will discharge his duties satisfactorily and may live long to enjoy his position and let by-gones be by-gones—brush them away and let them go. He knows better to-day. He praised the Senate the other day; and he knows that what he said formerly was said under a wrong impression. I am willing to let that go and say no more about it.

I may have to deal somewhat with the speeches that have been made here. I must pay a compliment, before I come to discuss this question, to my hon. friend the member for Shell River. He made quite a speech. One half of it I approved of entirely; the other half I disagreed with altogether, as my hon. friend knows. He has been very persistent and very consistent in advocating free trade on all occasions. He ought to feel encouraged that he has made some converts, among them the prime minister of the country. The hon. member and the premier were both in England at the Jubilee ceremonies, and the hon. senator the gentleman who ought to have received the Cobden medal, not the premier, because our colleague made a convert. It must have been a quick conversion. If we look to the premier's speech at London in the last election, we find he was in favour of preferential trade. He showed the farmers there how much better off they would be if they could get so much more for their butter and cheese and products generally. How did he get converted all at once to free trade? The moment he put his foot on British soil at Liverpool, this conversion occurred. There is only one conversion more remarkable, that is the one that took place on the road to Damascus. My hon. friend from Shell River has given us the same speech, from his standpoint, on free trade more than once, but he must know this, or has to learn it, that people do not get rich by what they buy. They have to get rich by what they produce and sell, and instead of my hon. friend regretting that the exports of this country exceed the imports, he should regard it as a matter of congratulation to the people of this country that we have surplus products to sell. No people on