

sidence to that twelve months' administration, and I assert, that its sins of commission and omission, were as few as those of any Government that preceded it; I say that it was a year of office marked by the inauguration of a genuine system of retrenchment; that both, with the Imperial Government and with our own people good-faith was kept; that in our official correspondence, our Orders in Council and our Commissions of Inquiry, broad and just principles were asserted, deserving the approbation of the people of Canada. (Cheers.) It may suit the exigencies of the moment for our successors in office to assail us, as it suited our predecessors to do so the other day; but with all its faults and shortcomings—and it had them—of course, it had,—I assert that the Macdonald-Sicotte administration has left behind it the most honest chapter which has for years been written in the annals of Canadian government. Now, we knew, right well, gentlemen, when we accepted office, in May 1862, that we could hardly expect the support of a Parliament elected in '61 under the auspices of our predecessors, who for seven years previously by a succession of coalitions, had controlled the government and patronage of the country. We knew as well last year as this year, that a vote of want of confidence was possible—was probable, and we should last year as well as this year have gone to His Excellency in such circumstances for the constitutional resort of a dissolution. But certainly we should have asked a dissolution for our own policy, not for another,—for our own government,—not for another. We should have asked for a dissolution not as a pretext for dropping our programme, but as an occasion for taking the sense of the country, for or against, that programme. (Cheers.) Other counsels, however, prevailed at Quebec, during the late crisis, other men now represent those counsels, and it was really asking a little too much,—it was it seems to me hardly decent, hardly delicate to ask the authors of the rejected policy to endorse its rejection, and to swell the chorus of the new programme retaining so far as we yet know, hardly a vestige of our platform. You will observe, gentlemen, that I stand here as an independent candidate, on no personal ground whatever. All the personal inducements for me, are on the side of the present Ministers. Almost all my personal and political friends are in that camp,—and some who, perhaps, would not be there, if they knew all the facts of the recent change. It would be, I say, unforgotten, far more agreeable to my feelings, if I were supporting at this moment, Messrs. Holton and Dorion, as I always have done,—always have faithfully done,—since our joint contest, in 1857. (Cheers.) They have sent here Mr. Young to force me from my position of independence, and to drive me into opposition, but they will fail (cheers). I will oppose the opposers, but I will stand on my old platform of liberal and national opinions, from which it is not in the power of any person or persons, or clique to drive me. (Cheers.) How have they sent Mr. Young here? how has he allowed himself to be put forward here? He, and Mr. Holmes and Mr. Cramp offered on Friday last—an intimation which was a polite method of intimidation—that I should have no opposition from them, if I allowed three mem-

bers of my committee to serve on their committee (groans), and three members of their committee to serve on mine (groans). I refused—because that would be playing false to my Address, which they had read before they saw me. (Cheers.) Then, if I would promise to declare publicly that I would vote for Mr. Holton as an elector of Montreal Centre, I could have purchased their forbearance, but I refused, because that too would be departing from my declared independence. I repeat, I think it was not delicate, it was not decent to urge me to these conclusions; but the last menace is now resorted to, and I take up the gauntlet. (Cheers.) How is Mr. Young here? On a requisition from this division? No. At the nomination of a public meeting held in this division? No. By address of this division? No. With a committee of this division? No. He is here by the appointment of a committee in another constituency—he is here the delegate of Mr. Holton, to punish me for my independence—he is here as Mr. Holmes avows, as part of a general Ministerial understanding—and because I would not consent to be a party to my own, and to my late colleagues' dishonor? Well, gentlemen, this new fact determines my duty, and as Mr. Young's prompters would not have my neutrality, they have chosen to force me into open antagonism. The responsibility be upon them and their advisers—I am not answerable for their acts. (Cheers.) And now, gentlemen, what have they compelled me to do? They compel me to defend the Government of which I was a member, and the programme of that Government, against an intrusive Government and an unknown programme. (Cheers.) I do not say, and did not here, last 6th of June, that the programme of the Macdonald-Sicotte Cabinet was, in all respects, my own *ultimatum*, but it had been adopted as the possible best, by all those who in '62 were known in Parliament as the Liberal members, whether from Upper or Lower Canada. I need not say, situated as we are, that there is always great difficulty in forming any definite programme for a new Administration, while there is on the other hand great danger of deception and misrepresentation, if the programme be not definite. (Cheers.) I have twice had an humble share in Cabinet-making I remember the scandals which followed—the conflicts and controversies which arose—from the Brown-Dorion programme of 1858 not having been definitely understood, on the seigniorial question, on the representation question, and the school question. We had in Parliament and in the press, Minister flatly contradicting Minister, as to what was really the policy of that short-lived combination. I don't know how it is at present, but at all events, the programme of May '62, was honest, explicit and above-board; at all events it was found not to be impracticable at the Council table, and I do not think it was fair or wise to assume, that it could not have the support of a new Parliament, merely because it was not sustained in the old one, from which we never expected at any time, on any programme, to have a majority. (Cheers.) We saw that the representation question,—though based on a principle of justice as far as regards the taxing and popular branch of the Legislature—