

man who was sent was unfit on account of his political conduct, and was to bring with him instructions and men who would set at naught the rights and disregard the feelings of the people."

But, during the discussion last evening, the hon. gentleman challenged this side of the House to show any point in which the Liberal party or the present leader of the Opposition was instrumental in causing the trouble in the North-West, and challenged us further to show whether the Government which succeeded Sir John Macdonald was to blame because he had given \$1,000 to Mr. Riel. I propose, as the hon. gentleman's speech will go abroad, to quote from the records of the country as briefly as possible, and to invite any hon. gentleman to interrupt me if I mistake anything and challenge any hon. gentleman on that side to dispute what I shall say. I have referred to the death of Thos. Scott in March, 1870, and I am now prepared to show in what way the sad end of that unfortunate man was utilised in order to benefit a political party, that, while prating about patriotism, while prating about national feeling, while prating of desiring union between all the Provinces, with hearts to beat as one from ocean to ocean, they utilised it as they would to-day, as they would utilise this question if the people would allow them, in order to promote party interests. What was the first movement in regard to Riel? On the 4th April, 1870, the member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie), then representing Lambton and leader of the Opposition, spoke in the House of Commons. He said:

"We have most painful accounts in public newspapers of an atrocious murder being committed by men—ruffians I might say—(hear, hear) who are at the head of forces there, that calls for most extraordinary exertions on the part of our Government, (hear, hear) and in order to know exactly what the House and country ought to do, the Government, I think, are bound to place in possession of this House all the information they have with regard to that murder. We know that other persons were held prisoners there besides the unfortunate gentleman who was murdered, and what security have we in this country that other of our fellow subjects shall not be murdered as well as poor Scott."

The question came up in the Provincial assembly of Ontario, and the hon. member for West Durham, then for South Bruce, was the leader of the Opposition. On the 2nd February, 1871, we find him moving:

"That the cold-blooded murder for his out-spoken loyalty to the Queen of Thomas Scott, lately a resident of this Province, and an emigrant thence to the North-West, has impressed this House with a deep feeling of sorrow and indignation, and in the opinion of this House every effort should be made to bring to trial the perpetrators of this great crime, who, as yet, go unwhipped of justice.

"That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, embodying the foregoing resolution, and praying him to take such steps as may be best calculated to further its views."

The hon. gentleman said:

"He (Riel) is receiving deputations from the people of that country, asking him to stand as a candidate for the Local Legislature and for the Parliament of Canada. Yes, for the Parliament of Canada! We find him declining, for the good of the country and from patriotic motives, to allow himself to be nominated. But, Sir, I say that unless this Province speaks out, it will not be long the case that he will act thus, and we may yet undergo the humiliation and disgrace of seeing the murderer of one of our people elected to the Parliament of Canada, and representatives from Ontario sitting in council on the affairs of the country with one guilty of murder. I warn this House and this Province that unless we act in this matter the murderer will go unpunished! This, Sir, is no ordinary murder. It was no murder for revenge, for money, or for any of those causes that usually provoke a great crime. The spot where poor Scott's ashes rest is unknown. Let his country write his epitaph in the records of her Assembly, and express a people's sorrow for his untimely death, and a people's stern resolve that that death shall be avenged!"

Sir, we all know how that death was avenged. In 1872 I find the hon. gentleman in West Toronto, after the defeat of Sanfield Macdonald's Government, saying on the hustings:

"Now, with regard to Scott, they had a good deal of talking, and now they were going to have action! (Cheers). The principles he had contended for in Opposition he would endeavor to carry out in practice. Office had no charms for him; he desired merely to carry out in power those things he advocated when out of power, and when they found him careless with reference to those things, then it would be their duty to withdraw their support from him."

Judging from the manner in which the hon. gentleman has succeeded since he entered public life and became a member of a Government and the leader of the Opposition, I think the people must really have found that he was a little careless in regard to consistency, and so have withdrawn their support from him. Then someone asked:

Mr. MACKINTOSH.

"What can the Ontario Government do about the Scott murder?"

"Mr. BLAKE. I shall show you what the Ontario Government can do about that."

The Provincial Secretary, Mr. Gow, said "it was a lamentable thing that any son of our country should be murdered in cold blood and not a single move made to bring the murderer to justice." The Local Legislature met in 1872, and a resolution was passed offering a reward of \$5,000 for bringing the murderers to trial. The following was the resolution: Sir John Macdonald's Government resigned in the fall of 1873, and in March, 1874, Louis Riel took the oath and subscribed to the members' roll of the Dominion House of Commons. I am not introducing these matters to create bickering or strife or recrimination, but wish to show to hon. members on both sides, to those who were in Parliament then and those who are here now, the line of hypocrisy and double dealing uniformly adopted by the party now in Opposition. I desire to show that in 1871, while the Government of Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George Cartier were maintaining the rights of the people, were proceeding under constitutional government and respecting constitutional privileges, the hon. gentlemen were fighting them step by step in a manner that they must to-day regret when looking back upon the record. Last night, the member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) said that the amnesty was promised Riel by Sir John A. Macdonald, therefore the leader of the Opposition could not be held responsible, because he had to agree to it. I suppose some hon. gentlemen will endeavor to prove that an amnesty was promised. So far as the amnesty is concerned, I am prepared to prove that the hon. leader of the Opposition not only never mentioned Riel's name, because the elections of 1872 were then pending, when he became Premier of Ontario, but that he never replied in any affirmative way to applications made by those who said they could arrest Riel, and that in letters, and telegrams, and correspondence and documents, he carefully avoided mentioning Riel's name, refusing to recognise him as the murderer, because fearing that whatever he wrote might pass into the Province of Quebec, where he imagined the people were so weak, so narrow, so bigotted as to vote for him and defeat Sir John Macdonald's Government because he was professing to be the friend and protector of Louis Riel. I have said the hon. gentleman never mentioned Louis Riel's name in 1872. I find in the Sessional Papers, No. 38 of 1873, a telegram from Walter R. Brown:

"What amount will be paid on delivery of Louis Riel in Toronto? Answer at once."

The answer was:

"\$5,000 will be paid to the persons instrumental in bringing to trial before any competent court, one or more of the murderers of Thomas Scott.

"EDWARD BLAKE."

Mr. Walter R. Brown—

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Bown.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. It is spelled Brown in the returns—Bown wanted to know, if he delivered Riel at Toronto, whether he would get the reward. The hon. gentleman who led the Government said the \$5,000 would be paid on bringing to trial "one or more of the murderers." Then, the late Hon. John Hillyard Cameron also made an application for Mr. Woodington of Niagara. Mr. Woodington's application was:

"Will you let me know if warrants for the arrest of Riel and Lépin in the United States can be issued in Ontario, and whether they can be brought from there to Ontario under the extradition treaty, provided the charge of murder could be sworn against them? If so, I am prepared to charge Riel and Lépin with the above crime, and make affidavit of the same, as I was one of the prisoners held by the rebels when Scott was taken out and shot, and that I also saw both Riel and Lépin order the men to go out and shoot him. I think the expenses of the journey would not exceed \$200, and if that sum is advanced to me and the necessary papers furnished for their arrest, I promise that, within two or three weeks from the day of my leaving, I will land in Toronto either Riel or Lépin, or, perhaps, both. Mr. Woodington is residing at Niagara, and can be vouched for by several respectable persons."