

A speech, to be a good speech, must have a soul—and that is denied to one delivered in opposition to truth and right. It is a mere corporate body of galvanized words—hideous and horrible. Such were most of the speeches in defence of Sir John, including his own; for Sir John did not and could not believe in his own innocence—nay, he knew more of the guilt and corruption in question than any other in the House. A story is told, I know not with what truth, of Mirabeau, who, when a young man, committed a highway robbery, almost expecting to be taken in the act, but desiring to experience the sensation of being utterly opposed to society, that he might thus school himself to the task which he foresaw was about to be imposed upon him in the terrible times of the revolution. A man would need to come through some such previous education whose fate it is to stand in defence of a great political crime fully revealed, and universally condemned by all save a few partisans. We do not wonder at the fact that Sir John's speech was not up to the mark of a great speech. On the other side there were several good, yet but one great, speech,—that of Mr. Blake,—fully rising to the grandeur of the occasion. There are many minor blemishes, probably owing to the inaccuracies of the reporters or the printers, but taken as a whole, it is a most masterly criticism of the whole case, leaving nothing to be added or desired. D'Arcy Magee, had he been living, and had he had the good fortune to be in the opposition, might have made a speech which, in classic diction and ornaturne, would have been more beautiful, but we question whether he could have made, in his best days, one so telling. After Blake's speech the Government must have felt their case hopeless.

We must retract an erroneous estimate which we made in our last issue, as to the power of party to resist truth and light. We expected no converts to be made in the Parliament by the persuasion of speeches. We were wrong, even there converts were made during the debate. In minor things, men may be relied on to stick to their party, but when a great principle is involved, some will be found who will prefer the right, let what may become of party. We should never despair of a great cause. Shakespeare was right—

Thrice is he armed, who hath his quarrel just,
And he but naked, though locked up in steel,
Where conscience with injustice is corrupted.

The appointments which the Government made at the last hour of their existence are hardly defensible, save by an appeal to common usage and wont. We do not recollect the particulars, but we certainly remember outcries raised on many occasions against similar appointments made by Governments, both in England and in Canadian provinces. It is natural, though not consonant with a high toned public morality, to provide for those who have supported a government, by appointment to such places as