

gentlemen here are actuated by patriotic motives, while all the rest are guided by base instincts, and unworthy, self-interested designs. I have heard—and it is a worse indignity—an hon. member of this House himself, impugn the motives which guided the majority; but while the hon. gentleman has made these statements, disgraceful if true, did he ever think upon whom his reflections were falling, and whom affecting? Did he think how he was by implication aspersing the characters of hon. Meesters. Seeley, and Robinson, and Hamilton, and Davidson, and Odell? Did he, or did any of these honorable gentlemen, ever read the 14th paragraph of the Quebec Scheme, in which it is provided that, "while the first selection of members of the Legislative Council shall be made from the Legislative Councils of the various Provinces, and in such nominations, due regard shall be had to the claims of the members of the Legislative Council, of the Opposition in each Province, so that all political parties may as nearly as possible, be fairly represented."

We will thus have to select five from the Government party, and five from the Opposition, so that the whole Opposition will have to go to Ottawa, and the grave suspicion might rest upon our hon. friends, that their opposition has been inspired by a disposition to secure for themselves, under the provisions of this Section, seats in the General Parliament.

But, your honors, these reflections that I have alluded to, are beneath the dignity of this Body. When I cast a glance along these benches, and see the character of the gentlemen here; when I note the venerable appearance of many of them, indicating that mere political and party ambition are not the themes on which their minds are most likely to dwell; when I consider the character of these gentlemen, illustrated by a long course of Legislative experience in which they have proved the sterling composition of their minds, their honesty of purpose, their unswerving loyalty, their strict desire to do always what was for the best interests of the people; I say, while at a glance all these thoughts arise, I find the plain, palpable, sufficient rebuke of those who have dared to impugn their characters.

It is most to be regretted that so few of these gentlemen by whom I am surrounded, would consent, at their time of life, to fore-

go the comforts of home, to go to Canada, there, by their presence, to lend dignity and give character to the General Parliament.

April 16.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL resumed—

It is of secondary importance, my explanation of the position of the Government, and the attitude in which it is placed as towards His Excellency and his late advisers, to this hon. House; but it is of primary importance, it appears to me, in the present crisis of affairs, that the country, anxiously enquiring as to the circumstances which have brought things to their present state, and eagerly attending to learn what the position is, and what the future prospects are, should be informed as to these points, in order to relieve its suspense, and reassure the public mind. It is of importance that the statements now being industriously circulated, calculated to bring this House and the head of the Government into disrepute, should at once be met by a truthful vindication of the character of each. On Saturday, I stated that the mists and fog of prejudice were being thrown around the question at issue; that peoples' passions were being appealed to on constitutional questions; the enemies of Confederation asserting that Responsible Government had been violated, and our long cherished institutions trampled in the dust. I endeavored to dispel the mists, and let the sun-shine of truth in upon the question. I showed that whatever the principles of Responsible Government had suffered, it had been principally at the hands of those who now so unscrupulously declaim against it; I showed how the spirit animating the slanders and misrepresentations, being uttered, was hostility to union, which means hostility to our best interests. But, your honors, I find now, another side issue has been raised. It is said that the copy of the correspondence, as printed, and laid before the House, differs from the original, sent by His Excellency to Mr. Smith, and by him read down stairs.

Let me admit there is a slight difference, but not a material one, in any instance, and having admitted this, let me explain how it arose, and having heard that explanation, you will feel with me, that it was not only uncalled for, an inadversion of His Excellency because of it, but was almost indecent. His Excellency has been called upon of late, to devote a large amount of his time and energies to the military functions of his office.