

with a grotesqueness worthy of the pencil of a Dore. We confess that we have ourselves frequently felt a good deal of difficulty in resisting the demand for new expenditures pressed upon the Government by the growing needs of a great and progressive Province. We have, however, by a careful and judicious control, been enabled to meet the legitimate demands in a fairly liberal spirit without trenching upon our reserve capital represented by our surplus. We admit that in this we have been materially helped by the late favorable timber sales, but we claim that the proceeds of these have been legitimately applied in public buildings and works which would otherwise have absorbed our reserve, and which are of far more present advantage to the people than forest preserves. We feel that we have on this occasion as in the previous year, a fairly satisfactory balance sheet to present a true statement of the transactions of the past year, and a hopeful and, I trust, not exaggerated prospectus for 1889. Our eyes are not closed to the necessity of economy, but recognize that that economy must be coupled with a liberal appreciation of the requirements of the public service, and we trust that the House, on a review of the financial statement which it has been my privilege to present, will give us credit for having fairly done our duty. I move, Mr. Speaker, that you now leave the chair.