

object of the resignations. What is the result to-day? Why, Sir, the result shows this, for one thing, that, if there was weakness, the weakness was not in the leadership, but the weakness was in the following. The leadership remains the same as it was eight days ago, but the following has been strengthened. Six of the followers came back to the fold. Another, it is true, has remained outside, but the plums remain in the family, at all events, by the accession of Sir Charles Tupper. The following has been strengthened, strengthened by the accession of really a strong man in the person of Sir Charles Tupper. Then, perhaps, some vigour will be put in the vacillating Premier. Well, Sir, I ask in face of what has taken place, if all these scandalous proceedings have been justified by the result? Can the hon. gentleman who, I suppose, will now resume his position as leader of the House, declare that the Government has at its head at this time a Premier who can command the confidence of his colleagues? I doubt it very much. Is this a Government whose Premier can satisfy the Liberal-Conservative party "that its strongest elements are at its head," that "it has a government which is united, and has power to govern?" Why, Sir, if the country has been impressed in any way, it has been impressed with the conviction which now prevails, that the Government is composed of a band of plotters, and schemers, and conspirators, whose bond of union is the cement of office, and whose only aim and purpose is their own selfish and personal aggrandizement. The paramount conviction at this moment is that the hon. gentlemen opposite can sacrifice anything and everything, honour, friends, convictions, principles, so long as they can remain in the places which they have so long misused. Why, Sir, what have we to-day? We had eight days ago the announcement made on the floor of this House by an hon. gentleman who was supposed to speak with authority as to the causes which had led to these resignations, and to-day we learn that the true causes were not given to us on that occasion. I am sorry to use this language, Mr. Speaker, but we have the confession made here, in the hearing of the hon. gentleman who leads the House at the present time, that the reasons which were then assigned for the withdrawal of himself and his colleagues, were not the true reasons, but that the whole thing dated back to the month of July last, when the Hon. Mr. Angers resigned his seat in the Cabinet and did not return to the fold. This was the reason. We have known all along that such was the reason. We have known all along that the Cabinet was divided upon the same question at the present time. Sir, to-day have we a complete Government? No, Sir, we have still the rump of a Government, we have not yet a complete Government. Well, Sir, I leave the hon. gentlemen and their

colleagues, and their followers, to the reflections which must arise in their minds at this moment. Further than this I will not say. I remember on a certain occasion when there was a political commotion in England. Mr. Disraeli was then in his prime, but was not taking part in the affair; and when he was asked the question why, he answered that he was loth by word or deed to take anything away from the effect of the lamentable exhibition which the Government was making of itself in the eyes of the country. Sir, I would be loth myself, by word or deed, to say anything that would diminish from the result, or from the effects which must follow from the lamentable, from the humiliating, from the base exhibition which the Government have made of themselves during the last eight days in the eyes of the country at large.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. When I brought down the announcement which I made to the House, I realized the great disappointment which hon. gentlemen on your left, Mr. Speaker, would experience from the fact that a strong Government, one which we believe will control and command the confidence of the country, has been formed, no doubt to the regret of the supporters of the hon. gentleman who leads Her Majesty's loyal Opposition. I felt that the hon. gentleman and his friends must have seen that their chance of reaching the Treasury benches could only come to them through dissensions in or the breaking up of the Conservative party; and, Sir, I venture to state that the reasons which have been given in the statement that I laid before the House are reasons that must appeal to the country, and must prove satisfactory to the people. What is the reason which induces the hon. gentlemen to return to the portfolios which they had considered it their duty to vacate? It was because, as stated in this document, they felt that, in the interests of the country they should put aside any consideration except the one of public interest, and for that reason, and that alone, they have come back and form to-day the Government which I have announced to the House. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Laurier) has spoken of several crises which have taken place, and he has drawn the attention of the House to the fact that in April one hon. gentleman left the Government, and that in July two other hon. gentlemen resigned, and the last crisis, which has lasted, as he said, two weeks, but it has continued not quite that length of time, he has spoken of as indicating, on the part of the Government, a state of affairs in the constitution of the Cabinet which rendered it unfit to control and govern the destinies of the country. Sir, I venture to express the opinion that when troublesome questions arise it is not only possible, but it is natural to suppose that great difference of opinions must arise between mem-