

I have mentioned the Letellier affair. I wish to say just one word in reply to a criticism of me made in connection with the encroachments of Federal authority upon Provincial rights. At the time I had no sacrifice to make. According to me there was an enormous difference between a political and an administrative act. This is a point that has been overlooked.

The member for Lotbinière is a type of the English Tory. When he was in power he based himself upon precedents offered by the career of Sir Robert Peel. I am not finding fault with him, but simply stating a fact. His ideas are not those of the men with whom he is in company.

In 1878 I had to accomplish one of the most solemn acts of my whole life ; I had to choose a party. I said to myself, I can never sympathize with the member for Lotbinière and his friends. On general principles we must agree. Can anyone, casting his eyes over history, say that the *Rouge* party has done good ? To this question the people have often answered in the negative. And if those who abandon them are traitors, I can say that in 1879 there were thousands of traitors in Gaspé, Levis, and elsewhere.

In 1874 the Liberals came to power thanks to the assistance of Conservatives who left their party to overthrow a Conservative Government.

Were these members insulted and vilified ? No ! My crime then was worse than theirs ! After having calumniated me, dit not *L'Electeur*, in its issue of December 14th, 1882, say that there was no difference between the member for St. Hyacinthe and Mr. Chapleau ? Moreover did not the fierce member for Lotbinière offer a portfolio in his Cabinet to Mr. Mathieu, a Conservative, and to Mr. Turcotte, another Conservative. Did not Mr. McKenzie himself take three Conservatives, Messrs. Burpee, Smith, and Cartwright, into his Government ? The corrupter is as culpable as the one who is bought, if corruption and buying takes place. I contributed to the overthrow of the Joly Government ; by