

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Perhaps you would give us particulars of your election?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I will give the hon. gentleman particulars fast enough, and I will tell him where to find what I refer to. I was about to say, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) was not such a purist then, or was not such a hypocrite then, whichever it may be, and he was not ashamed to sit cheek by jowl with a man who got his seat by the expenditure of \$36,000. If the hon. gentleman wants proof of details, he can find them in the election courts which he shudders to think of as being presided over by men of such doubtful character, and after that, if he goes to the highest tribunal in this country he will find the record there, and he will find, furthermore, that that man held his seat by the purest technicality in the world, and that the judgment as to the corruption stands unreversed to this day. Yes, Sir, and more than that, when the appeal from the decision unseating that member had succeeded by reason of a technicality, and that member appeared in the House in the afternoon, the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) led the cheers of congratulation which greeted him. If the hon. gentleman wants proof of details like that, his memory can serve him, if he goes back to the record of the London trial and of a good many others too.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The Lennox trial.

Mr. BOWELL. The Cook trial.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Yes, he can find the records of a good many others too in which for disgraceful bribery candidates were rewarded by favours from the Cabinet in which the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) sat. If the hon. gentleman wants his record and wants his details, he has only to give us another war, pestilence and famine speech, and he will have enough of them for the night. Sir, I could not help being amused at the story which was trotted out about the "Red Parlour" for the thousandth time here—but, Sir, while that passes through deaf ears wherever it is uttered now, because every one in this country has found out by this time that it is all a phantom, and that the subscriptions which are supposed to have been given by the manufacturers at the so-called "Red Parlour" would not carry any one of the constituencies, which the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) has been accustomed to run for within the last 20 or 30 years—when that is so well known and understood in this country, the way it is echoed and re-echoed excites laughter wherever the phrase is used; yet the hon. gentleman got one of his sympathizers and satellites to attend to his business in Washington while we were there in April last. He got him to write a leading article in a Washington paper, which greeted us the morning we arrived in Washington, and before we were introduced to the authorities of the United States, for the purpose of putting the subject and the object of our mission just in the favourite language of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright).

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is making a statement absolutely destitute of foundation in fact, as he knows.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Well, Mr. Speaker, I can produce the article and anybody who reads it and who has heard the speeches of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) cannot fail to recognize the author.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If the hon. gentleman has been told—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—that I did so, I would tell him that I did nothing of the kind, and he states what is false.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I did not mean to say that the hon. member for South Oxford was the author; and if he denies it, I am willing to withdraw the statement that he induced the author to write that article.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The hon. gentleman knows that it is a falsehood.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I do not know anything of the kind, but if anything would induce me to believe it, it is the hon. gentleman's denial. What I was going on to say, Mr. Speaker, was this, that the author, whoever he was—and there can be no doubt as to who he was—reflected exactly the sentiments and opinions of the hon. member for South Oxford; this is his duty and his work, such as it is, in certain important publications in the city of Toronto and elsewhere. And in re-echoing the hon. gentleman's story about corruption in this country and the imposture of our mission to Washington, of course it could not be a faithful portrayal of his master's words and ideas unless the "Red Parlour" were introduced too, although I suppose Washington would open its eyes to know what "Red Parlour" had to do with it or what "Red Parlour" meant; and so little was known or understood of the term there that the innocent printers published it to the world as the "bed parlour." The hon. member for South Oxford has undertaken to speak biographically of this Government, and he has declared that we have gradually progressed—by rapid stages, but still by stages—and that we began at a period when, as he says, my steps were tottering and faltering, and when he accused a member sitting on this side of the House of being the top of a mountain range of undefined corruption—a submerged mountain top, or similar picturesque language; there was, at any rate something mountainous about the hon. gentleman's statement, we all knew at the time how much truth there was in the allusion of the hon. member; but his candour and sagacity are at any rate remarkable for this circumstance, that although he was at that time, and has ever since been accusing Mr. Rykert of being guilty of falsehood, and corrupt falsehood, in all the letters and statements he had made with regard to that matter; yet now, when it suits his purpose, he quotes the words of that gentleman as a witness on his behalf, for the statement that dozens of members among whom he sat were just as corrupt as he had been, and had been guilty of just as many breaches of parliamentary decorum. All I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that if Mr. Rykert was worthy of the strong invectives which the hon. member for South Oxford has applied to him in times past—and we know that the English language affords no stronger—he is a worthy witness for the hon. member for South