

Opposition. But they had been deceived by a false mirage, and, when the breeze of of September the 17th came, to dissipate the gloom, they saw they had only the width of the Lachine Canal between themselves and the enemy. There was drowned the second lieutenant of their army. And now, they would have probably to make many annual pilgrimages to his grave at St Ann of the "Trap" before they obtained, through his mediation, the favour of returning to power. And that large and resonant clock that the hon. the late Premier had placed last summer in the central tower of the Parliament Buildings to mark the hours of the long and happy life he had expected to spend in the enjoyment of power, served, first, to toll the knell of his Government, and now it remained there to remind him (Mr. Mackenzie), the many departed followers whom his short-sightedness as a pilot on the political sea led to a premature end. Some of the hon. gentlemen of the Opposition had reproached the Ministers with having framed a tariff much higher than what the National Conservative Party had made the country understand it would be; while others had blamed them for not having given it so high as it had had been promised. But no hon. member of the left could prove that the National Conservative party had promised specified rates of duty to be imposed on the importation of foreign goods and products. It would have been improper to do so. What it had promised, through its leaders and its organs, was that every legitimate interest, every branch of national industry would be sufficiently protected. And if his hon. friends of the left were so angry and so unfair to-day with the present Government and its supporters, it was because they had asserted so boldly that no effective protection, no material change of the tariff was to be expected, and because they could not say so any more. That was where the shoe was pinching them and making them feel so uneasy. The hon. gentlemen were using tactics which they might think clever, but which had already proved useless, when they attempted to charge the Ministerialists with their own faults and errors, by pretending that their party was defeated at the last general elections through pre-

judices appealed to by the advocates of the National Policy. The fact was, on the contrary, that, while the latter were explaining the necessity, under the circumstances, of increasing the duties on importations so as to equalise the balance of trade which bore so heavily against Canada, and to invigorate the languishing industries — agricultural, manufacturing, mining and ship-building — of the country, the Liberals were telling the people that the Conservatives wanted to overtax everybody uselessly. And this was what they were still doing here. Where was then the appeal to prejudices and ignorance, on the side of those who spoke so loudly against taxation, often a purely imaginary taxation, and the rest of the time against a necessary taxation, a taxation brought upon them through their own policy and Administration, a taxation that would amply reward the temporary sacrifices asked of the people; or on the part of those who had the courage and the consistency of saying and doing what they knew to be for the good of the country? When the Liberals were seeking the votes of the people, they were full of respect for the "patriotic and intelligent electors;" but no sooner did these same electors disapprove of their policy than they were no longer "patriotic and intelligent;" they became a "selfish and ignorant" majority, in the estimation of the hon. members of the present Opposition; which implied that, in order to be regarded as patriotic and intelligent, it was necessary to view everything through the eyeglasses of these hon. gentlemen. The hon. members of the left pretended that all enlightened people were in favour of Free-trade. Political economy was a science of rather modern origin, and was not yet definitely well fixed. But if they were to weigh the opinions on each side, they would come to the conclusion that the great Protectionist statesmen, such as Colbert, Turgot, Napoleon the First, M. Thiers, in France, and Franklin, Jefferson, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, in the United States, not to speak of others, could compare advantageously for intelligence and genius with the most celebrated authorities in favour of Free-trade. However, he (Mr. Houde), would quote only the most pronounced and renowned writers in favour of Free-