

not the most remote reason to suppose that the hon. gentleman entertained the slightest feeling of hostility towards me, until the extraordinary outbreak, which will be fresh in the memory of this House, which occurred in 1878, when he first thought proper, for some reason which I have never been able to divine, and which my hon. friends on the opposite side of the House have never been able to divine, to attack in the most unjustifiable manner the Honorable the Minister of Justice and myself, and he has been continuing to do this in the grossest and most malignant way, so far as regards myself, by repeated false statements which he never heretofore dared to make before my face, and by repeating those statements in the corridors of the House, in the hotels and by anonymous communications and letters to the newspapers, containing the most gross insinuations and slanders which he dared not put his own name to, until now the whole thing has culminated in the attack which he has made to-day. I think I may safely leave the matter in the hands of the House when I sum up the position in this way: that the hon. gentleman in the first place is just as responsible for what occurred in the Bank of Upper Canada the whole time I was president as I am, because he occupied a seat as director during all the time. In the second place, I think that the House will fairly estimate the patriotism at what it is worth of the hon. gentleman as to whether he cares one snap about this \$1,100,000 which he says is due to the Government and the people of this country; or whether as in the other absurd motion which now stands on the notice paper he has simply sought an opportunity of giving pain and annoyance to one who had never injured him in any way whatever, by dragging this matter before the House and making the malignant personal attack upon me in the way he has done to-day. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more and I hope that hon. gentlemen will pardon me for trespassing on the time of the House in giving the explanations which I have been obliged to give to-day.

HON. SIR DAVID MACPHERSON
—The charge which the hon. gentleman from Woodstock brings against me is a very grave one—at least it would be a

very grave one if it had a tittle of foundation in fact. I can assure the House however that it has none. The whole of the story is the creation of his own brain. I have lived all but 50 years in this country. During nearly the whole of that time I have been engaged in conducting large and important business, and never until now has any insinuation been made against my honor. It is not in the power of any man to-day, I rejoice to say, to assert that in any of my many transactions I have ever attempted to do anything that was not strictly according to honor and according to the principles which should govern a British merchant. I never was indebted to the Bank of Upper Canada. By that I mean to say that I never owed one shilling that was over-due to the Bank of Upper Canada. My firm kept our account with that bank for years. We were sometimes borrowers but we were generally lenders—generally depositors with the bank. Our transactions, if they could be examined, would bear the strictest scrutiny. So much for the transactions of my firm. With respect to the Grand Trunk Railway, I never asked a favor for them from the Bank of Upper Canada or any other bank, and to say that during the short time I was a director of that bank I had used the influence which my position there gave me to increase the debt of the Grand Trunk Railway Company with that bank, or to increase any other debt owing to that bank is altogether unfounded—is absolutely untrue. The reason why I went upon the board of that bank I shall give to you in the words of another, not my own. I shall read a letter from the Hon. Sir Alex. Galt, who was Finance Minister at the time I was induced to accept a seat on the board of the Bank of Upper Canada.

St. LOUIS HOTEL,

QUEBEC, 22nd October, 1883.

“MY DEAR MACPHERSON,—

I regret extremely to learn from your note of the 20th instant, that your consent to become a director of the old Bank of Upper Canada has caused you annoyance and misrepresentation.

The facts are that soon after my assumption of office in August, 1858, as Finance Minister, I became seriously uneasy at the condition of the bank, and after the Session—I think in June, 1859—I applied, with the concurrence of my colleagues, to the late Hon. John Ross and yourself to accept the position