

in the course of the last electoral contest, attacked not members of the House of Commons, but candidates.

Mr. Coursol, M. P. for Montreal East, said on the 2nd of April, 1884, in the House of Commons :

"The translators are for the most part men who belong to the press; they have to gain their livelihood in addition to the small salary which is granted to them," &c.

The exercise of our profession is necessarily accompanied by those things which are imputed to us as crimes. If the House of Commons is now anxious to modify the conditions of its contract with us, and to restrict us to our one sole work of translating, we are prepared to receive its overtures, to weigh its new proposals, and estimate the value of the compensation with which it would be inclined to acknowledge our sacrifice; but, as long as our bargain shall remain as it is to-day, I will claim, respectfully, but persistently, the privileges which the representative body has freely granted to us, and which it cannot now lessen without seriously injuring us in our interests.

At the commencement of this too lengthy letter, I claimed my right and title as citizen of a free country. I hold to this title, Mr. Speaker, more than to the fruits of the arduous labor which constitutes the only resource of my family and myself. In a recent circumstance which has become memorable, the Hon. Secretary of State thought to sustain his opinion by quoting that of the illustrious Thiers. It is an opinion that I am pleased to find him appealing to, for Mr. Thiers said on the 28th March, 1865, at the time when France was subject to Imperial rule: "To be free is to be able to choose the representatives of one's opinion, without being dismissed if a functionary, or molested, as regards personal interest, if dependent, in any way, on the public administration." (Speech to the Corps Legislatif on public liberties, 28th March, 1865.)

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by placing myself with confidence under your ægis. Jealous guardian of the immunities of the House of Commons, you are also the natural protector of all that class of the employees of the public administration which is under the immediate and sole control of that House. In the arena upon which it is being fought out, the struggle between the Honorable Secretary of State and myself would be too unequal, to my prejudice, if I could not count with full reliance on your firmness in maintaining, in absolute strictness, the whole series of formalities commencing with the bringing of the charge against me.

I respectfully submit that I have done nothing derogatory to the duties of my position, and that I have not gone beyond, by a single line, the limit of my privileges. I ask that this whole affair be referred to the Committee on the Debates, before which I propose to place my defence, if it calls me before it, as is strictly according to equity.

Accept, Mr. Speaker, the expression of my highest consideration.

ERNEST TREMBLAY, *Translator of Debates.*

To the Hon. J. A. OUMET, Speaker of the House of Commons.

OTTAWA, 4th June, 1887.

MR. SPEAKER.—I have the honor to bring to your knowledge the fact that Mr. Ernest Tremblay, one of the translators of the Debates, came only once to the County of Richelieu during the last electoral contest. He spoke at St. Roch on general politics, without any violence whatever. I bear him witness that he acted with all the courtesy of a gentleman.

I have the honor to be, Mr. Speaker, your devoted servant,

J. B. LABELLE.

To the Hon. J. A. OUMET, Speaker.