

SPEECH
OF THE
HON. MR. BLAKE
ON THE ADDRESS.

DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, JANUARY 18, 1884

A MASTERLY ADDRESS ON THE TRADE POLICY, THE RAILWAY
POLICY AND THE LAND POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT,

BEING A

GENERAL REVIEW OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

MR. BLAKE. Mr. Speaker, although the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Macmaster) closed his address to the House by declining to tender the traditional apology, I will not so far follow his example as to decline to tender the traditional compliment, and I will assure you that so far as I could judge, he has not merely, on this occasion, been provided with that which he seemed to think essential to a gentleman of his profession—a brief—but he stuck to it with a very commendable accuracy of thought and attention, and he paid, it seems to me, a poor compliment to those who entrusted him with the honor of moving the Address when he declared himself to be in want of that essential preliminary to an advocate's speech. My hon. friend, if he will allow me to call him so, who seconded the motion, opened his observations by complaining of the task imposed upon him as a young member, and he said that he thought from his point of view, as I understood him, it ought to be some of the older hon. members who were

more accustomed to these matters, who had had more to do with them, who were more responsible for them, who should be called upon to explain, in a fuller and more authoritative manner than he could hope to do, the topics which were under discussion. But the hon. gentleman, after having made that apology, which the hon. gentleman from Glengarry disdained to make, proceeded to discuss those matters in a manner which indicated, I think, that he was also fully equal to the task imposed upon him. There was, it is true, on one occasion at any rate, some slight discrepancy in the statements of the hon. gentleman, but, generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, I may say that both of them adhered tolerably well to the text of the document which they were asked to give their assent to, and to which they were inviting the assent of this Chamber. That document is long, but, though long, it is, perhaps, quite as remarkable for what it omits as for what it contains.