

to those hon. members who occupied seats on the floor of the House for the first time, that the hon. gentleman whose name he had mentioned, had had a long experience in Parliament and in official life; that in both positions he had performed his duties honorably and well, and that during his term of office as Speaker, none of his decisions had ever been reversed. Like all other Speakers, he might have given decisions that were not acceptable to individual members. Mr. Walford, speaking on this subject in the British Parliament, had said that during his long experience he had never known a Speaker whose decisions had not been objected to on both sides of the House: among his own party, from a feeling that perhaps from fear of seeming to lean towards his friends, he had given decisions adverse to them; and by his opponents, from a belief that he had been partial to his friends. On the whole, and after all, the general tenor of a Speaker's conduct should be the guide as to whether he was fit for re-election or not. He (Sir John) was now trying to introduce the system that had obtained in England and had worked well.—That after a Speaker had served well, he should not be changed capriciously at the beginning of each Parliament."

Well, sir, the hon. gentleman who spoke a moment ago, pointed out to us the difficulty of finding, after our experience of last Parliament, a gentleman who would preside over our deliberations with equal dignity, courtesy and impartiality as had presided the late Speaker of this House. This hon. gentleman has not had the misfortune to lose his election. He is present amongst us, and I am glad to see him present in health and vigor, in the full maturity of his powers, but yet he does not receive the honor of the application of the rule which the hon. gentleman, the First Minister, propounded for our guidance in 1872. The hon. gentleman has laid down a different rule. He now says that the rule which he laid down on the occasion to which I have referred—that the general tenor of a Speaker's conduct should be the guide as to whether he was fit for re-election—that a Speaker who had served well in that capacity should not be capriciously dismissed at the commencement of a new Parliament—shall not be observed on this occasion. What is the reason for the change? Is my hon. friend in ill health? Are the rumors true that we have sometimes heard, that after all the reverses and successes which have attended his Parliamentary career, he is about to leave us for a sphere in which he will at least enjoy a measure of ease and retirement, even if it does not possess all the attractions of a Parliamentary life? Why is it that the hon. gentleman does not apply the same rule with regard to the hon. member, whose laudations we have just heard, as he laid down ten years ago? It cannot be that the hon. Minister intends to imply that the hon. member for Lévis (Mr. Blanchet) is not well suited for the office—that he does not in every respect meet the views of the hon. gentleman as to what a Speaker of the House should be. At all events, I suppose we may now understand that the principle of action which the hon. gentleman followed on a previous occasion is now abrogated for some cause or other, and that another principle of action which prevailed formerly in the old Provincial Parliament is to be the one in vogue. With reference to the choice which the hon. gentleman has submitted to the House, I was glad to learn from the Minister that the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick) possesses one qualification of importance to his office, and that is, a sufficient conversance with the language which is spoken by a number of the members of this House; and I am glad to re-echo the observations of the First Minister as to the attention which my hon. friend from Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick) has paid to his Parliamentary duties, the important part which, as a private member, he has taken in many important portions of our deliberations, and the unvarying courtesy and kindness with which he has conducted his share in our debates. I have no doubt that he will in all these respects adequately fulfil the great trust which it is proposed to repose in him. I hope, too, that in addition to the observance of perfect impartiality as presiding officer of this Chamber, he will endeavor to maintain the dignity of this House by some more active steps, on certain occasions, than former Speakers have taken, by the repres-

NT. JIAKF.

sion, at the earliest moment, of incidents, which, when prolonged only become more lamentable; and in doing so I can assure him that he will receive the most cordial support from this side of the House that we can give him. I may add my personal congratulation to the hon. member as an old friend—upon the honor which it is proposed to bestow upon him—our friendship having commenced before we entered the stormy scene and having continued unbroken ever since.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. BOURINOT, I am sorry to disturb in the least the amicable arrangements that appear to exist between the two sides of the House by saying a word which would jar upon the feelings of anyone. I cordially agree with what has been stated as to the excellent personal qualities of the proposed Speaker, and the pleasure I have enjoyed in my intercourse with him in the work of the House, and in the committees of the House. All that is perfectly true. But an occurrence took place on a former occasion which leads me to a different conclusion as to one point. If there is one thing more than another which it is the duty of the Speaker to do, it is to maintain the balance fairly between the two parties—irrespective of party proclivities or party leanings—to see that ample justice is done to every member, and that every member is sufficiently protected under all existing circumstances. On the 12th of May, 1879, a person, well known to hon. gentlemen in this House, wantonly insulted a prominent member of Parliament—though I attach no importance to his prominence, as the humblest member is equally entitled to protection with the most prominent. That case was brought before the House by myself, and I recollect, with some pain, that the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick) and the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), and one or two other hon. gentlemen on that side, did everything but excuse the wanton insult committed against that member. I allude to the late member for Shefford (Mr. Huntington). Now, sir, while I have no desire at all to say one word disparaging to the candidate for the Speakership, I am bound to say this: that it would have been far more acceptable to me—entirely acceptable indeed—but for the events of that unfortunate occasion. Having thus entered my protest against what I conceived to be a wanton violation of the duties of this House towards a brother member, I say no more on the subject.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. BOURINOT. I declare Mr. Kirkpatrick duly chosen to occupy the Chair of this Honorable House as its Speaker.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK was conducted from his place to the Chair by Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Hector Langevin.

Mr. SPEAKER, ELECT, standing on the upper step, said: I beg to tender my grateful acknowledgments to the House for the honor it has conferred upon me, in electing me to be its Speaker. It will be always my desire to deserve the confidence reposed in me. I am sensible of my unfitness for the position; but relying upon the kindness and co-operation of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House, I shall endeavor to do my duty to the best of my ability, and to discharge the functions of the Chair with fairness and impartiality. I hope the House will sustain me in vindicating our rights and privileges, in maintaining our Rules and Orders, and in securing the freedom of debate, according to our established usages.

And the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to; and (at 3:30 o'clock p.m.) the House adjourned.