

choice by the people, of discovering and selecting the fittest men.—I have already remarked that practically the election of Senators has become a popular election; the function of the Legislatures being now little more than to register and formally complete, a choice already made by the party managers, and perhaps ratified in the party convention."

Now, what is the consequence of that? What is likely to be the result of that kind of election? My hon friend from British Columbia tells us that if the State Legislatures—that is if the Provincial Legislatures, elect the Senators—they will "know no party." That was my hon. friend's expression. In other words, by adopting the American process we shall cease to have party men imported into this House, and those who come here and sit within its walls will know no party. How is it possible that such a result will follow? It is not so in the United States. The men who are elected to the Senate of the United States are so strongly partizan, that they would sacrifice any interest rather than that a Democrat should poll a Republican vote. We know perfectly well that there is no consideration that will induce a majority of the Senate to go against their party; and that the man who voted against his party would be held up to the scorn and contempt of the 60,000,000 of people of the United States, and would be as much despised by his opponents in politics as by his own friends. How is it we are going to change human nature so that the men who are returned here by the exertions of the dominant party in a Provincial Legislature, shall cease the moment they arrive here, to have any political opinion? That I think is easily answered. But I think is already completely answered.

HON. MR. McINNES (B.C.)—The hon. gentleman is really putting a strange interpretation on the words I made use of. The words I used four years ago, which I read to the House and endorsed to-day, were that if members were elected by the different provinces, they would come here free and untrammelled, under no influence and under no sense of gratitude to the leaders here at the federal capital, as they would owe their position to the local Legislature, and many of the local Legislatures are not actuated by the same principles that prevail here in the capital.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—If I could only be certain that I take down what I hear with

my ears, and place before myself something which I have a right, it would facilitate my labours here a good deal. I took down at the moment my hon. friend spoke, the language he used, which was in so many words that these men who would be sent here by the local Legislatures would know no party.

HON. MR. McINNES (B.C.)—I read it out of the book, and I can make no mistake.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I am not speaking of my hon. friend's speech of four years ago. I had not the advantage of hearing that speech, or reading it, and I am only speaking of what my hon. friend said in the House within the last three hours, which I wrote carefully down, and which I read in making the statement to the House, that he insisted that the persons sent by the Legislatures to this House, would know no party. But while I am referring to the hon. gentleman, I would remark upon another curious statement he made about the defects of this system of appointment. He said that one great objection to this mode of appointment is that a Senator so appointed would be so influenced by gratitude to the men who appointed him that he would not be able to give an independent vote against them. Now, I point to my hon. friend himself as a living, walking and speaking proof to the contrary.

HON. MR. McINNES (B. C.)—I must rise to a question of order again. I am misrepresented again. The hon. gentleman must know, as every hon. member of this House must know, that I never was elected as a Conservative or a Grit—that in both of my elections to the House of Commons I was distinctly an independent. I defeated the candidate of the Mackenzie Government in 1878, when the Reform party was in power; at the next election, I defeated the Conservative candidate in the next general election that was run against me, and I was returned to the Commons thoroughly independent, and hon. gentlemen who will take the trouble to turn up the Parliamentary Companion, of 1878, will find there in my biography that I am in favor of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, and thoroughly independent.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend has not yet interferred with or disputed the