

social and friendly associations, that such a rupture of party political ties could have been nothing but the unprincipled result of political apostasy; I could not believe that our friends who left us on the 16th of November on this question were not sincere; and it is because I believed in their sincerity that I appealed to them, without threats of violence, without promises of favor; it is because I believed in their sincerity that I have resented the insult contained in the insinuation which was cast in their faces by the member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron), and the member for Iberville (Mr. Béchard). It was because I believed in the sincerity of my friends, that I was appealing to their better informed judgment, that I hoped that their better judgment would come at last to their rescue, that I was not willing to distrust their honesty of purpose.

I know that my hon. friends can have no political sympathy with hon. gentlemen opposite. After this question is disposed of, none of the numerous matters which remain, as the programme of the party, can reconcile their views and their convictions with those of members sitting on the other side of the House. I have appealed to them, and if my appeal is in vain, I hope I shall not be found fault with for having believed in them.

I cannot, I must say, give the same testimony of sincerity to the hon. gentlemen whom I see in the immediate following of the hon. member who leads the Opposition. I should not be telling the truth if I were to say that I can reconcile sincerity with the action which the hon. the leader himself has taken upon this question; but I must hasten to say, at the same time, that I cannot blame him, knowing, as I think I do, the motive of his action on this occasion. The hon. member for Quebec-East, carried like so many others by the popular cyclone which over-ran the Province of Quebec, on the 16th November, on the Champ de Mars, in Montreal, had committed one of those mistakes which outlive the political existence of a man. He had made then the declaration, that if he had been living on the shores of the Saskatchewan, he would have been ready to shoulder his musket against the Government of Her Majesty. His declaration had resounded throughout the Dominion like a bugle call to arms for a civil war, and had been resented by the whole of the volunteer force of Canada as a condemnation and insult. The English Liberal party in the Province of Quebec—and I must give them that testimony that their loyalty is above suspicion—had risen in a solemn protest, and the Reformers of Ontario had joined in the repudiation of a declaration bordering on treason in the mouth of a Privy Councillor. It