

the other side, who are accustomed to take very great credit to themselves when the country is prosperous under their management.

Mr. ARCHIBALD—It is quite evident that the Administration will do nothing for which they cannot avail themselves of the plea afforded by our example.

The Answer to the Address was, on motion, laid on the table until tomorrow.

The House adjourned to Friday at 3 o'clock.

FRIDAY, Feb. 23, 1866.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

THE ADDRESS.

Dr. HAMILTON moved that the address in answer to the Governor's speech do pass. (Mr. Archibald being absent, it was understood that the address should be adopted, excepting the last clause, to give that gentleman an opportunity of expressing his views.)

Mr. ARCHIBALD—I know not whether it was by accident or otherwise that the clause which has been left for me to oppose is that which expresses gratitude to Providence for the blessings of the past year, one which of all others I feel disposed to endorse. I recollect there was a celebrated writer who once sent a letter in which he thanked God that his work was done, and the reply made by the individual to whom it was addressed was "that he was exceedingly happy to find that Dr. Johnson had the grace to thank God for anything." If I were disposed to cavil at this clause at all it would be on a similar ground, and I would merely express my pleasure that the Government have had the grace to thank Providence for anything. I must say I have not a great deal of fault to find with the Government as far as the address and answer are concerned, for they are to a great extent non-committal, and if I have found it my duty to make any observations at all, it was only on account of the entirely unprecedented address of my honorable friend to whom the motion was entrusted. It is quite clear that the object which the Government had in view in framing such an address and reply was, that we should pass to the business of the House and the country without having our time occupied with a preliminary discussion, and had the honorable member for Kings accepted the position thus pointed out to him, I would have felt I was not doing my duty in detaining the House for a single hour or a single minute in discussing the topics to which reference has been made. More than that, if these observations, which appeared spontaneous, had not been circulated on the wings of the press to the people of this Province, I would have been silent, but although in the *Reporter* of last night not a word was said as to the nature of these observations, I regret to find that they have been fully circulated in the papers of this morning. Under these circumstances, and after remarks made in such a depreciatory tone, I feel I would be worse than criminal were I to sit here without strenuously protesting against the course which has been pursued. I do not intend, however, to go into an elaborate review of the foundation on which the hon gentleman based his argument, but does that hon gentleman undertake to tell this house that the increase in the prosperity of this country, the increase

of her trade and of her revenue, are due to the Government by whom our affairs have been managed for the past three years? I will do him the justice to say, that I do not take such to be his intention, and that I imagine he is willing to make some considerable deduction for the natural growth of the country, and that he did not mean to assert that her expansion of trade and great financial success are altogether due to the ability and management of the gentlemen who occupy the Treasury benches. Whatever his meaning was, I challenge him to put his finger upon a single line, in reference to any financial matter, which has been altered since their predecessors went out of office; and yet he presumes to take credit for all, excepting a small deduction, of our prosperity, as due to the ability of the gentlemen whom he supports. I just ask him, and I think it but fair he should give me his reply without the suggestion of his leader, whether he can point to a single line, or to half a line, that has been added since these gentlemen came into power that has increased our revenue. If he fails to do so, I think it will be seen that the deduction which he has made is entirely inadequate. Every body must be prepared to admit that circumstances have occurred which have made a most material difference in the trade of our country. The hon. member has told us how the revenue fell off in 1861 and 1862, but is he going to ignore entirely the fact that during that period an internecine conflict of immense proportions interfered with our commerce, and suspended the operations of industry in the neighbouring States. Was all this to take place without an interruption of trade when one-third of that trade was with the country involved in the civil war? When the first gun was fired a large portion of our exports immediately fell off, and so they continued to decline during the continuance of that struggle; and yet we are told that the decline was owing to the Government which managed affairs at that time, and that therefore the increase of trade, when trade was turned into new channels, is due to the energy of the gentlemen now in power. Is the hon. member also prepared to say that if the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty, to the consequences of which many of our people look with the utmost foreboding, should again cause a large portion of our exports to fall off, the Government will be responsible for the results? Bad as I think the management of the present Government has been, and much as I am disposed to condemn many of their proceedings, I should be sorry to blame them for that over which they have no controul, and yet in that case they would be as responsible as we were for the effects of the convulsion in 1862; and when the hon member asks the people to believe that our present prosperous condition is due to anything else than circumstances, he is asking us to give credit to that which the merest tyro in such matters would reject as unworthy of belief. He has spoken about the state of the tariff in 1860 and the subsequent years;—there was no alteration to any significant amount, however, and he will find that the imports are exactly synonymous with the revenue, which increased exactly in proportion as the tariff was raised, and he will further find that anything which accounts for an increase of imports accounts for an increase of revenue.