

that officer from among her people, and pay him but fifteen hundred dollars.

"Can such a condition of things be expected to give satisfaction, with the evidence forced upon us that we have no rights worthy of a moment's consideration, when weighed against the interest or convenience of a gentleman who has been useful to the Imperial Cabinet before coming here?"

"Destitute of representation in the Parliament of Britain, with our most eminent men systematically excluded from the highest position in their own country, and for which their colonial experience and training eminently fit them, it is impossible that the free spirit of the inhabitants of British North America can fall soon to be aroused to the necessity of asserting their undoubted right to have their country governed in accordance with the well understood wishes of the people. * * * *"

"In conclusion, Your Grace will allow me to add, that should it prove true that the Colonial Office has determined to sustain the Lieutenant-Governor in the unconstitutional course pursued by him, it will become necessary to lay the subject before the Imperial Parliament, and this country will then learn whether the time has arrived, when important constitutional changes have become indispensable for the acquisition of British institutions, as enjoyed in the parent state.

"I have the honour to be,

"Your Grace's most obedient servant,

"CHARLES TUPPER, M.P.P."

That was pretty strong language, all because the government had not chosen to dissolve a newly-elected assembly.

A gentleman in the audience interrupted Mr. Power by saying, "All pointing to federation as a remedy."

Hon. Mr. POWER. There was not a word said about federation, and nothing thought about federation. It rather pointed to independence, or annexation, so that we could elect our own governors, and pay them only \$1,500. That is rather ancient history; still, the leopard does not change his spots; and a few months ago, in the summer of 1896, this same gentleman was the leader of a government which appealed to the country and which was defeated upon that appeal; and the language which he used in another place towards the Representative of Her Majesty, was nearly as strong as the language contained in that document of 1860.

An hon. gentleman interrupted that statement by saying, "Not a whit too strong."

Mr. SPEAKER. Is the hon. gentleman quoting from the debates of the Senate? I gather from the nature of the last interruption he quoted that he is doing so.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I said an hon. gentleman in the audience interrupted.

Mr. SPEAKER. There can be no dispute as to whether the hon. gentleman was quoting from the debates of the Senate or not. If so, I shall have to check the hon. gentleman.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then I can only bow with the greatest deference to your ruling, Sir, and shall not quote from the Senate Debates in any other place. But

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to what the facts were. It is quite true that, upon the conclusion of the elections in 1859 in Nova Scotia, the government of which I had the honour to be a member, felt that a very grave question arose, and it arose in this way. A Bill had been passed, previous to the dissolution of the House, declaring that any person holding office under the Crown was disqualified from sitting or voting in the legislative assembly—a law similar to that which exists here. It transpired that five gentlemen at least who were elected in opposition to the government were notoriously holding offices under the Crown, to the knowledge of the Lieutenant-Governor and of every other intelligent person in Nova Scotia. The Lieutenant-Governor, under those circumstances, wrote to the Colonial Office, stating the facts, and asked the Colonial Office what he should do, if a majority composed of those gentlemen, notoriously disqualified as they were by the Act of the legislature from sitting or voting, created a majority and took charge of the government. That despatch of the Lieutenant-Governor was referred to the law officers of the Crown in England, and when I mention that Sir Richard Bethel was at that time the Attorney General, afterwards the distinguished Lord Chancellor, the House will understand that the opinion sent out had the very greatest weight and authority. That opinion of the law officers of the Crown, taken by the Colonial Office at the request of the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, was sent out, as I consider, for his guidance, and it declared that if the attempt to govern were made by a majority notoriously disqualified from sitting or voting in the House, it would become the duty of the Lieutenant-Governor to appeal to the people. Those were the circumstances under which I maintained that it was necessary, for the vindication of the law and the constitution of the country, that there should be a dissolution. I do not think that it will require any elaborate argument to show that I had good ground and that the government of which I was a member had good grounds for drawing the attention of the Colonial Office to the position that was then taken. But I may say that the declaration of Mr. Power, that confederation had never been heard of or thought of until then, is entirely unfounded. Before that letter was written by me, I had been invited to open the Mechanics' Institute in St. John, and on that occasion I chose for my subject the political condition of British North America, and I propounded precisely such a scheme of government as exists in Canada to-day, as the solution of all our difficulties, as the means of opening up these positions of Lieutenant-Governors to men belonging to our own country, who were eminently qualified to fill them. Was I right or wrong? The last thirty years have vindicated my policy and shown that