

Why? Because, if respectable friends constitute a clique, it is dangerous for the clique robbers, &c., and it is perfectly well known that a clique was formerly organized to rob and plunder the Province of Quebec. It is perfectly well known that the people, in one of those days of wrath which it sometimes has, drove out the clique. (Applause.)

And it is known, gentlemen, more to-day than ever, that those who carried out the sale of the railway, in 1882 belonged to the clique of the men who figured in the Pacific scandal of 1872, who have just brought about the Rykert scandal, and who are mixed up with the McGreevy scandal in Quebec. (Applause.) And it is perfectly well known that while we, notwithstanding what is said to the contrary, remain poor in public life, giving all we can in the first place to support our families, and next to help works of charity, to help education, to help all just causes, those who are treating us as a clique enriched themselves when they were in power, and crush us to-day with the sumptuousness of their style.—(Applause.)

Gentlemen, believe me, these cries of our adversaries are meant to divert your attention from the true situation, and if there were in the party to which I belong, which I conduct at the moment, and which I hope to lead to victory—(Applause)—a single man disposed to credit these charges, let him say so and we will change leaders in order to preserve the flag.

Men pass away, but the cause abides. (Prolonged Applause.) Let us surround the flag with respectable men, if it be thought that those who are defending it to-day are not so. But, for the love of God and of the Province, let us assure the triumph of that flag by our devotion, our patriotism and our energy. (Applause.)

ECONOMIES.

It is said : But how do you justify the general result of your administration of affairs? You have reached a frightful figure of expenditure.

Who is saying this? Those who practised economy, not by reducing their own salaries, not by reducing the indemnity of members, not by lessening the profits of contractors, but by reducing the grants to our educational and charitable institutions. (Applause.)

They practised economy by cutting off the support of the good nuns whose devotion to the poor and infirm touches every heart, and draws tears from every eye. Cutting off a hundred dollars here and there, taxing public charity, and calling on the nuns to gather up our orphans, our sick and our infirm and forcing them to be satisfied with the modest alms which they threw to them.

They practised economy by saying : Here is an educational institution, Protestant or Catholic, giving free instruction to a large number of poor children, we will reduce or cut off its grant ; it was thus they practised economy, by taxing charity and education. We do not want to practise such economy, and we shall never do so, gentlemen. (Applause.)

The day on which the people desire men to carry out such economy and to snatch a few dollars from our houses of charity and education, let the people say so ; we shall retire and allow to come back to power those who are heartless enough to brutally carry out such economy. For our part, we have not the courage to do so.

On the contrary we have increased the grants to our charitable institutions ; we have increased the grants to our educational institutions, and see to-day the colleges and convents which are arising in the Province of Quebec ; see the buildings which are going up even in this city ; buildings for Protestants, buildings for Catholics. We have helped them, and shall help them again if necessary (applause), because, gentlemen, we consider that the finest capital that the Province of Quebec can have is intelligence. (Applause.) And the only way to develop that capital is by education. (Applause.)

And if there be anything which should give pleasure to the hearts of the citizens of this province, it is the maintenance of our charitable institutions and the help we are giving to those holy women, who spend their whole lives in devotion to the poor and the unfortunate. (Applause.)

INCREASING THE EXPENSES.

It is also said : your expenditure has increased ; yes, but, what about the jurors and Crown witnesses? Before we came to power a citizen was dragged from his work, sometimes he was a poor man, and he was told : you are a juror, you will be shut up for ten days, and you will get half a dollar a day. You are a witness, you know a fact which can help society to protect itself. You will come up as a witness ; you will give your time for nothing ; and if you are too poor, if you must ask a few cents to support your children, you will be forced