

of witnesses released from the consequences of perjury,—and finally, that he would not feel himself safe in entering into any arrangements dependent upon the *bona fides* of those with whom I had suggested he should treat.

Unfortunately, in this country party animosity is intense, and the organs of each side denounce the public men opposed to them in terms of far greater vigour than those to which we are accustomed in England. The quarrel at this moment is exceptionally bitter. The one party openly accuse the other of personal dishonour, while these regard their opponents as unscrupulous conspirators. As a consequence, a mistrust of each other's fair dealing,—which I cannot believe to be justified on either hand,—has been engendered, which would render the rôle of mediator under any circumstances extremely difficult. As it was, the former part of Sir *John's* representations, if not the latter, coincided too closely with what had occurred to my own mind to enable me to deny its cogency. There being however no further time for correspondence, I left Halifax on Saturday night, the 9th August, and arrived in Ottawa on the morning of Wednesday the 13th. Had I been at liberty to have done so, I should have preferred starting sooner, but the town of Halifax had organized a series of popular demonstrations in our honour for Saturday afternoon, and it would have occasioned great dissatisfaction had I absented myself.

Before continuing my narrative, there is one incident connected with my stay at Halifax which perhaps ought to find mention here. Mr. *Huntington* sent me a sealed packet covered by an official communication to my Secretary, which, as I understood from the gentleman who brought it, as well as from Mr. *Huntington's* letter, contained copies of the incriminatory documents in his possession. As the matters to which the papers referred had become the subject of a public investigation before a House of Commons Committee, and as I was still uncertain what turn affairs might take, I did not consider it would be proper for me to take personal cognizance of these papers. I therefore returned the packet unopened to Mr. *Huntington*.

The 13th August was not only the day appointed for prorogation, but it was also the day to which the Committee of enquiry had adjourned, but as far as I can gather from the subjoined report of what occurred, it came together to very little purpose. Indeed its whole procedure on this occasion is difficult of comprehension, in consequence, I suppose, of the meagreness of the only report of what passed, which I have been able to obtain. In the first place, only four out of the five Members were present, and eventually another, Mr. *Dorion*, withdrew in the middle of a discussion, leaving what are considered the Government Members in a majority. One of these, Mr. *Blanchet*, then proposed that they should report their proceedings to the House. Mr. *Blake*, in amendment of this suggestion, moved the adjournment of the Committee, which was carried,—the result being that when the House met at three o'clock, as had been arranged six weeks before, for the very purpose of receiving the Committee's Report, no Report of any sort or description was forthcoming. The following is the account of the proceedings referred to:—

“ OTTAWA, Aug. 13.

“ The Pacific Committee met at 11.30. Present: Messrs. *Cameron*, *Blanchet*,
“ *Blake*, *Dorion*.

“ At the request of Mr. *Blake*, the resolution passed by the Committee at last meet-
“ ing—that the Committee cannot proceed without further instructions from the House,
“ was read.

“ Mr. *Blake* moved that the said resolution be rescinded.

“ Yeas—*Blake*, *Dorion*.

“ Nays—*Cameron*, *Blanchet*.

“ Resolution lost.

“ After some conversation as to the Committee making a Report to the House,