

been made; I will not ask them to attempt to justify that declaration, that they have been always characterized by an adhesion to principle—but I challenge them to stand up and show me one single principle professed by them, propounded as their platform, urged upon the people of this country as the ground upon which they asked confidence and support that they have not—not only not adhered to, but trampled under their feet. For years this Parliament rung with their denunciations against coalitions. Night after night, sitting on this side of the House, they declared that the combination of men holding opposite political opinions, who had been separated by party ties, was a corrupt combination, and that any party who would make that combination, deserved the condemnation of this country. What did they find? They found men on the other side of the House, when the late Government was in power, men who had been called Liberals, and men who had been called Conservatives, agreeing upon all the public questions of the day, united upon the ground that the time had come when past political issues should be dead and buried, and that they would take their stand upon the new state of things which had been brought about by the union of the Provinces.

The Members of the then Opposition maintained that that was a false ground to rest upon; that it was the duty of parties to fall back on the old party lines and old party designations. They rallied the Reform party to the cry that no combination could be formed between parties who had been severed in the past without its being a corrupt combination, and unworthy of the confidence of the country. But, the moment after there had been an appeal to the people; after the people, having had an experience of five years of the policy and the views and the sentiments of both the great parties of the country, had decided that the great Liberal-Conservative party was entitled to their continued confidence, what did they do? Why, Sir, when the opportunity of obtaining power by trampling that principle under foot was presented, you found them making one of the most corrupt alliances ever made on the floor of a Parliament,

or in the face of a free people, in order that they might obtain power. And, having obtained power by alliance with men who, from year to year, had voted down every measure which they had proposed to Parliament, they made that corrupt combination in the face of this country, and showed how utterly worthless was that great cardinal principle which they had offered for the acceptance of the people. They seem to have gloried in their shame; for, if they could find a man who, for long years, had been held up to public execration and contempt as the most corrupt man that could be found in the ranks of their opponents, they took him to their bosom and presented him as a fit Minister for the people of Canada. I ask the hon. gentleman who has just spoken, to point to any language used by any hon. gentleman on this side of the House reflecting on Mr. Cauchon. I never heard it. They have been brought face to face with their own denunciations, and hon. gentlemen on this side of the House would be failing in their duty if they did not bring them face to face with their own declarations, and show that, in order to maintain themselves in power, they made an alliance with the very men who had been the subject of their constant execration, and had been held up as the vilest of the vile; but to-day no man could be found who was too vile to become a member of this Government which had obtained power largely by means of raising a cry against coalition. Not only have they forfeited all claim to the confidence of the people by trampling their principles under foot, but they have gone out of their way to convince the people of this country how utterly unworthy they were of confidence when they were seeking power at their hands. Need I tell you, Sir, or need I tell this House, that another ground on which these hon. gentlemen sought the confidence of the country was the ground of economy. They denounced the late Government for their extravagance; they said a great deal more money had been expended than ought to have been. I admit that the expenditure of the late Government was a liberal expenditure, but we had the money to expend. With