

E. RACICOT'S

Speech to his constituents, at West Farnham,
Saturday, Nov. 1st, 1879.

GENTLEMEN:—The vote which I gave last Wednesday in favor of Mr. Lynch's want of confidence motion may have caused some astonishment among my many sincere friends in this County, and, as the debate in the House was closed rather abruptly before I had an opportunity to explain, I deemed it my duty to give explanations to my constituents as soon as possible. I chose the good town of Farnham as the place of meeting because it is the first stopping place in the County on my return from Quebec, and because, moreover, I cannot forget the generous support, the large majority which I got here, not only from Liberals but also from Conservatives. I therefore, last Thursday, sent from Quebec letters and telegrams to different parts of the County to announce the meeting, and here I am before you to-day.

Gentlemen, you all know that when I consented to become a candidate a year ago last spring, and during the canvass which followed, it was well understood that I was not presenting myself as a thick and thin supporter of the Joly Government; I told you that I disapproved of the DeBoncherville administration, that I justified the dismissal of that administration by the Lieut.-Governor and that I approved of the programme of economy and retrenchment of the Joly Government. But I told you also, distinctly that beyond that I desired to remain completely unfettered so as to judge the future acts and measures of the Government freely and impartially on their own merits, according to the dictates of my own judgment. I would never have accepted the candidature under different conditions. Well, did the Joly Government deserve the confidence of the Province last week? I have by my vote answered that question in the negative. I am satisfied that I was right and I would vote the same way again. It has been for their evident incapacity that I found

fault with them. They were unable, for instance, to abolish the Legislative Council. They knew that by the Constitution they could not carry that measure without the assent of the Councillors themselves, and yet did they ever try to obtain the good-will of the Councillors, to talk to their patriotism, to make some compromise with them to begin with, to get by stratagem what they could not obtain by sheer force, like the General who tries to effect an entrance by going around the citadel when he finds that the front wall is impregnable? Not a bit of it. Did they suggest any practical way to get out of the difficulty. Not one. Their intention was good enough, but they apparently did not know how to do it. In order to carry on the affairs of the country successfully the members of a Government must not only be honest, but they must also be capable men; it must be a combination of honesty and ability. One of the two qualities is not enough. The inmates of the Lunatic Asylum at Beauport can hardly be said to be dishonest. During the last session, particularly towards the end in August, any one could easily see that I had no great admiration for the geniuses who were at the head of our Provincial affairs: a few of my votes then were certainly not very complimentary to them. Some of my friends will remember the expression I used (among ourselves) when I was out of patience at some particularly weak doings of the Ministry (and that occurred often enough, God knows) and that was: "*Nous sommes sous le regne des imbeciles.*" But, still I do not know but they were better than the others. I inclined to the belief that they were the least of two evils; I did not want the old crew back again. And so the session dragged on until I paired off about the 20th of August and came back home pretty well disgusted with politics in general and with Ministers of the Crown