

responsibility of all the acts of the Conservative party. I have never, so far as I know, repudiated my acts. In 1879, I simply declared that the Government was not strong enough to govern. Since then no one can find anything in my conduct incompatible with the stand I then took. I am not responsible for the party's acts except since I became a minister. I approve of the Conservative principles, and in Gaspé I never was anything but a Conservative. I have always said so too.

In 1878, I also declared that I was ready to give fair play to the Liberal Government. Had not the Joly Cabinet the support of such former Conservatives as Messrs. Watts, Cameron, Turcotte, Rinfret, Price and Mercier? I could well do what they did.

Now I will mention a fact which establishes the truth of this assertion. In 1877, my opponent and myself were speaking before a great meeting in Percé. I was a candidate, and I had written out my programme, in which I said that I would offer no factious opposition to the De Boucherville Government. Hereupon some one said to me: "But you are a Conservative." "Well," I replied, "if that is to be a Conservative I am one. I am of the school of Liberals who have been allied with those under the leadership of Baldwin in Upper Canada, and of Lafontaine and Morin in Lower Canada, but never with the so called school upheld by the Dorion's, the Dessaulle's, and others."

In 1878, my manner of looking at things was constantly in conflict with the opinions of my companions. It was thus that I treat the dismissal from a different point of view from that held by other members of the Ministerial party. In the Liberal party, at the present moment, there are two shades of opinion, that of the honorable Leader of the Opposition and that of the *Rouges*. They are distinct although they meet upon a common ground, viz., war against the present Government.

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