

reasoning on the facts in this case, and to fair deductions from those facts. I have expressed plainly, as it was my bounden duty to do on this important occasion, my views of the political situation. I have said, and I repeat, that the battle is one between purity and corruption. (*Cheers.*)

I should never claim for myself and my friends that we are the embodiment of purity, and that all the gentlemen who sit opposite, and who under a mistaken notice of fidelity to a party leader, of fealty to a lost cause, are about to vote against us—are corrupt. Far from it; I cannot be so ungenerous; I cannot be so unjust; but I desire that those of us who are proffering these views tonight shall be judged by them for all time to come—(*cheers*)—that in whatever situation my hon. friends around me may be placed, the position we have taken, the attitude we have assumed, the ground upon which we stand, will be held as the only sound and true ground. We are here to set up once again the standard of public virtue. (*Cheers.*) We are to restore once again the fair face of the country which has been tarnished; we are here to brighten, if we may, that fame; we are here to purge this country of the great scandal and calamity which those who are entrusted with the conduct of its affairs have inflicted upon it.

I agree with the hon. gentleman, that with all the efforts we will still be left in a position far inferior in the eyes of the world to that which we held before these transactions took place. We cannot, even by the act of justice which we propose to perform; we cannot, even by the solemn judgment which we are about to render; we cannot, even by the purgation which we are about to effect, wipe away in other eyes and amongst other people altogether, the stain, the shame, and the disgrace which has fallen upon the land. (*Cheers.*)

I have no feelings of joy and congratulation at this result. I deeply deplore the truth of these facts; but I am one of those who believe that what is to be deplored is the existence of facts, and not the discovery of them. I don't understand that Spartan virtue which deems a theft no crime so long as it is undiscovered. I do not understand that morality which will permit a crime unseen, but is deeply shocked and alarmed for the credit of the country should the crime become known. I do not understand the morality of the Hon. Minister of Customs (Hon. Mr. Tupper) who told us that it was deeply to be regretted, while these things must be and would be, that they should be made known. Sir, you will not heal the festering sore by healing the skin above it. You must lance it and cleanse it, and get good healthy flesh to grow around it. Painful though that task may be, arduous though it is, I believe it is about to be accomplished. (*Cheers.*)

The night is far spent, the day is at hand. I trust and hope, when the vote is rendered, it will be rendered upon this occasion by every man amongst us with reference to those principles of public virtue which he would apply in his own transactions as the standard between himself and his neighbour. Let us not be carried away by the absurd notion that there is a distinction between the standards of public and private virtue; let us not be carried away by the notion

that that may be done in secret which it is a shame to be known in public; let our transactions be open, and as the shame exists, as it has been discovered, as it has been conclusively established, as it has been confessed, let us by our vote—regretfully, it may be—give the perpetrators of it their just reward. (*Great cheering.*)

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) began by complimenting the member for Bruce South (Hon. Mr. Blake) for his able speech. He claimed that that gentleman looked at the question with the eyes of an advocate. He adverted to the statement of Hon. Mr. Blake that the Speaker had also received intimation of the prorogation on the 13th of August, and said it was usual for the Crown to communicate to the House its intention to prorogue, both through the Premier and the Speaker. The argument used by the hon. member was not one he expected from him.

With reference to the prorogation, he said he heard the statement of the First Minister and understood it to be a formal notice that prorogation would take place on the 13th. With respect to the Oaths Bill, he had no hesitation in saying that he had not only not changed his mind, but his opinion was confirmed. He had carefully considered the matter, and he was fully satisfied that the view which Parliament took on that occasion was the correct view. (*Cheers.*) At the same time he held that the Minister of Justice (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) was not to blame in the action he had taken. He had the authority of the Governor General to state what took place with regard to this matter, to show the entire good faith and honesty of the First Minister. (*Cheers.*) The First Minister told him that he felt so strongly with reference to the Bill that unless he (Hon. Mr. Cameron) had argued in its favour he would have felt bound to oppose it in the House. He argued the case with the Premier. Still the Premier was not convinced, and he wished that he (Hon. Mr. Cameron) should, if the Governor General desire, see him and discuss that question as he had discussed it with the First Minister. The Governor General did express a wish to see him, and he had seen him and argued the question with him.

The SPEAKER reminded the hon. gentleman that it was not in order to use the name of the Governor General.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) said he supposed he ought to speak of him as a higher authority. His opinion was acted upon, and the Bill received the Royal Assent. He desired as far as possible, that the House and country should know that, instead of there being the least wish on the part of the First Minister to keep back the Royal Assent from that measure in any way, he used every means in his power to enable the Royal Assent to be given. He was one of those who did not like to have our affairs ruled by two gentlemen of England.

He referred to a case of his own which had been decided by the law officers, but which decision in his appeal and on his argument the Judicial Committee had reversed; but whether the advice given by the law officers was correct or not, the very moment the English Cabinet declared the Bill was disallowed, we were bound to obey as long as the colonial connection existed. If the Act was *ultra vires*,