

the connection of that hon. gentleman himself with the Bank of Upper Canada. The fact of the matter is that the hon. gentleman became a director of the bank very nearly at the same time that I was placed on the board myself, and is in every respect just as responsible as I am for all that occurred in the bank from the year 1860 or 1861 down to the time the bank closed its doors. Soon after I was elected a director of the bank, not at my own suggestion nor by my own wish, I and others of my colleagues, finding that the affairs of the bank were in an unsatisfactory state, and being dissatisfied with the management, knowing that the hon. gentleman was a large shareholder and not then knowing him as well as I do now, I suggested to my colleagues that it would be a good thing if we could get a gentleman so largely interested in the welfare of the bank to take a seat on the board. After a good deal of persuasion they accepted my views. I went up to Woodstock; I had an interview with that hon. gentleman and obtained his acquiescence, and he may, therefore, be said to have been placed on the board, if not by me, at all events mainly at my instance and by my persuasion; that he was utterly useless there hon. gentleman will readily conceive. With regard to my appointment as president, the hon. gentleman knows very well indeed that that appointment was not sought by me but thrust upon me. It was the very last position I desired to fill, simply from the fact that I was indebted to the bank; however at a general meeting of all the shareholders, held, I think, in 1861, when a change was made in the management of the bank—the then cashier and president having resigned, there was a good deal of feeling elicited by the statement of the affairs of the bank then laid before the shareholders by the gentleman who was the newly appointed cashier, the late Mr. Robert Cassels. The report of the directors was received with great disfavor, and the meeting was at first not inclined to adopt it. Some of us who had only been on the board for a short time, and were in no way responsible for the management of previous years and its results, felt that this was unjust to us, and I got up and addressed the meeting, pointing out that there were those sitting there who were in

no way responsible for the then position of the bank, but that as the report would shew we had been doing our best to remedy the existing state of things. The result was that the report was carried, and very much to my surprise I found myself elected president of the bank the next day. Now, the hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that so far from my desiring that position, I had been extremely anxious that a gentleman whose position in the country was well known, a very wealthy, honorable and upright man, and one who had probably the largest share in the bank, the late Mr. Thomas Street, should be elected president; and there are gentlemen in this House who know that I did everything in my power to induce that gentleman to allow himself to be elected, and that failing to obtain his consent, the next step I took was to endeavor to persuade a leading merchant in Toronto, whom I thought was a good representative man, to accept the same position. He also declined to accept it; and therefore, I again say that that position was in no way sought by me, nor was it ever used by me for the purpose—as insinuated by the hon. gentleman from Woodstock—of obtaining one shilling of accommodation either for myself or for my friends.

I do not desire to continue a discussion which is in every way, I am sure, most distasteful to this House, but I think it fair and right when a gentleman makes such a gross and malignant personal attack as the hon. member from Woodstock has made upon me, to point out to the House the animus which has prompted and the motives which have actuated him in the course which he has taken to-day. As I said before, that hon. gentleman was placed on the board of the Bank of Upper Canada, at my instance. He continued on the board with me until the very time the bank closed its doors. We met afterwards, as years passed on; not one word did I hear from the hon. gentleman, not a whisper or suggestion of the false and malicious statements which he has made to-day. We were, apparently, exceedingly good friends. When at Woodstock, I have been at his house, and not only that, but he did not disdain to allow his own family to accept the hospitality of my own roof. For eighteen years I had