

Commissions as he pleases, but I want to have one that will do speedy justice. If this Commission is to perambulate the land, Parliament would be over before half the constituencies were dealt with. But of course the hon. gentleman will take the Ministerial candidates first.

But this proposal, which is thrown out as a bait to lead the House away from the topic, is simply another instance of the utter absence of consistency which the hon. gentleman exhibits in his arguments to this House. One moment the Election Committee is the palladium of our liberties; the next moment a Commission of three men, to be chosen by ballot.

The hon. gentleman has said that, being pressed by the enormous expenditure on the part of the Opposition, he was driven to do what he would gladly have avoided. Sir, I have pointed out that the hon. gentleman's scheme was concocted when he refused a pure law for trying elections. I proceed to point out that he knew that the consequences of that refusal were that he would spend money, and intended to spend money. Before he and Sir George-É. Cartier left Ottawa, as appears by his own evidence—before this frightful expenditure on the part of the Opposition had set in at all—before the writs were issued, the hon. gentleman was already preparing these and other means for influencing the people of this country. (*Cheers.*) On page 104 of the evidence, he says:—"When Sir George-É. Cartier and I parted in Ottawa, he to go to Montreal and I to go to Toronto, of course as leading members of the Government, we were anxious for the success of our Parliamentary supporters at the elections, and I said to Sir George-É. Cartier that the fiercest contest would be in Ontario, where we might expect to receive all the opposition the Ontario Government could give us and our friends at the polls. I said, "You must try and raise such funds as you can to help us, as we are going to have the chief battle there." I mentioned the names of a few friends to whom he might apply. Sir Hugh Allan among the rest, and that he was interested in all these enterprises which the Government were bringing forward."

At that early day he had seen that, to carry Ontario, he would want, more than his personal presence, more than his personal influence, more than the patronage of his Government, more than the arguments which in the open face of day a man may fairly address to his fellow countrymen—that he wanted Sir Hugh Allan's money. (*Cheers.*) By that early day he had pointed out to Sir George-É. Cartier the importance of getting at Sir Hugh Allan's money, and not his alone. We hear hon. gentlemen say, "What is \$45,000?" Does the Minister pretend that was all he got from all sources for the elections? He says he got some friends in the west and from various quarters to contribute monies to an amount which is not in the slightest degree indicated. That was only a portion of the election fund which was obtained by an abuse of the trusts and powers of the Government.

In addition to the political subscriptions of their friends at that time, the Minister confesses he thought of Sir Hugh Allan. He knew that Allan was interested in the enterprises which the Government

were forwarding, amongst others the Pacific Railway. Sir George went to Montreal and he found that instead of Sir Hugh in his present frame of mind being at all likely to "shell out" as he expressed it, he had established a combination and achieved a position which enabled him to ruin, and which he intended to use for the purpose of ruining, politically the Government of the day unless they would yield to his terms. (*Cheers.*)

This great contractor, this powerful man, had got himself into such a position that the confidence of a number of leading men would be given or withheld from the Government as he decided. At that moment he was exercising that influence in an unfriendly spirit; at that moment he was raising a spirit against the Government because they were not yielding to his views; at that moment he was exciting discontent and suspicion in the ranks of their supporters, and was making his power felt, as the evidence shows. This friend, as the hon. gentleman called him, was far from being a friend, but he was willing and honest enough to declare it—if the word can be used in connection with his name in any sense; he was willing to sell his influence and calm down the spirit he had raised, if he could only be secured in the object of his desires. (*Cheers.*)

I am not going to investigate the subtle question how far Sir Hugh Allan's letters are evidence in this case, but I think any man of common sense will agree with me that letters written at the time, with perfect frankness, upon the subject of the transactions going on, are, where they are not distinctly contradicted or explained away, the best evidence of what the facts were at the time the letters were written. (*Cheers.*) I quite admit that a hostile witness might be brought to such a point as to establish the falsehood of his letters, but if you want to establish the falsehood of any one proposition in the letters, you are bound not to treat Sir Hugh in the tender manner in which the Commissioners and the Government treated him. You are bound to make his state wherein his letters were false. With reference to every particular as to which you fail to obtain a distinct denial, you must take it for granted that the letter is true and cannot be denied. It is utterly impossible for gentlemen to say, because Sir Hugh Allan speaks of inaccuracies which apply to letters written in the confidence of private intercourse—as if he only told the truth in public and lied in private—it is utterly impossible with a general phrase of that kind, to answer the stern demand of justice upon the man who comes forward and insinuates these letters were falsehoods. That stern demand requires, however unpleasant it may be, that there must be an explicit denial.

These letters bear on them marks of truth; there are probably some inaccuracies in them, but they are not inaccuracies which affect their substantial proof; and as no one feels disposed to say a good word for Sir Hugh Allan, I will say I do not believe he was deceiving his partners in the gross manner stated by gentlemen opposite. Well, Sir George-É. Cartier found that Sir Hugh Allan held a great influence in his hands, sufficient without any money to involve the failure or success of the Government. This great influence is to be acquired—Sir Hugh Allan is to be conciliated, and the hon. gentleman endeavours to make an arrangement with