

members attacking persons who are not permitted to reply, and using towards them language so grossly offensive, I must say, as that which was used by the hon. gentleman. I do not object at all to his having and expressing very keen feelings at his public conduct being assailed, but I think it will be better if we shall make an effort on both sides to maintain the dignity of this House, and preserve better feelings amongst us by abstaining, at any rate, whatever charges we may find it necessary to make in the discharge of our public duty, to one side or the other, from the use of offensive and unparliamentary language, such as proceeded from the hon. member for Niagara (Mr. Plumb), and from the hon. Minister of Railways.

Mr. BOULTREE. It is very kind of the hon. member for West Durham to lecture this House on the proprieties, and I dare say it will do a great deal of good. It will, no doubt, do us a great deal of good if we follow the moderate tone with which he has just laid down the rule as our guide. It is certainly an objectionable thing to give way to abusive language. People of strong feelings and impulses, when goaded by attack, are apt to lose their sense of the dignity of their position for the time being and to say things they should not say. I would suggest to the member for West Durham, if so humble a member as myself may be allowed to give a little advice to a gentleman holding so high a position, that, if he wishes to produce the effect he says he does, if he is honest in the matter, he will exert his influence upon some of his supporters. I thought myself, while the hon. member for Centre Huron (Sir Richard J. Cartwright) was saying some very bitter things, that the member for West Durham was inspiring him. If I was mistaken, I withdraw the remark. I am very glad the hon. gentleman shakes his head in dissent, and to know that I was wrong. If the hon. gentleman is honest, however, and wishes to bring the debate to a proper state, he can do so effectively and quietly and without teaching us, on this side of the House, how to debate, if he would turn his attention earnestly and energetically, but privately, to the hon. gentleman who sits beside him. He may do a great deal of honest labor in this way and make good use of his time if he can reduce that hon. gentleman to such a shape as will induce him to rise and insult the good feeling of the House less frequently. If he succeeds in this, he will have accomplished solid good. It certainly did not look well for a gentleman holding the high position which the hon. member for West Durham holds, to make the remarks we have heard about the Minister of Railways and the member for Niagara. It was not right for him to censure those hon. gentlemen when they had been goaded into retaliation by the attacks of the hon. member for Centre Huron, without passing one word of censure on that hon. gentleman. It seems as if he was willing, when, from his side of the House, comes the severest language, conveying the worst kind of insults and injuries, such as go down against a man, are published and never forgotten, to tolerate it without objection. Much indulgence must be allowed men attacked on the floor of the House in base insinuations, which, if they contained a scintilla of truth, would degrade a man not only in the estimation of hon. gentlemen among whom he sits, but would condemn him in the eyes of the public as unfit for his high position. Much must be forgiven men so attacked. I think I may fairly say that, if the member for West Durham is honest in his desire to have our debates conducted properly, to prevent speakers descending to personalities which lead minds away from the true subjects of debate, he had better address his whole energies to the work of amending the habits of the hon. gentleman who sits beside him, with that worthy object.

Mr. BUNSTER. This debate is highly injurious to the Canadian Pacific Railway. I think that the Minister of Mr. BLAKE.

Railways forgets that the member for Centre Huron (Sir Richard J. Cartwright) has an object in trying to injure this railway. Hence, probably, his reason for trying to gain a little advantage by riling the Minister of Railways by saying what he did. I would therefore ask the House to adjourn till such time as it comes to a better state of mind for dealing with the Canadian Pacific Railway. This would be more in the interest of the country than to continue the debate in the present fashion. I therefore move the adjournment.

The Committee rose and reported.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. BLAKE enquired the intention of the Government with regard to the Christmas adjournment.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY said, very likely the Government would be able to state its intention on Monday next.

House adjourned at 11:45 o'clock, p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS,

MONDAY, 20th December, 1880.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### BILL INTRODUCED.

Mr. GAULT introduced a Bill (No. 7) to incorporate the Wrecking and Salvage Company of Canada.

Bill read the first time.

### CONTRACT FOR THE MAILS FROM WINNIPEG TO ST. ALBERT.

Mr. ROYAL enquired, Whether it was the intention of the Government to enter into a new contract for the carrying of the mails from Winnipeg to St. Albert, in the North-West Territories, and if so, whether the new contractor began the execution of his contract on the 11th of October, as he was obliged to do according to the advertisement of the department on this matter?

Mr. LANGEVIN. In view of the proposed extension of the Pacific Railway in this direction, the Postmaster General entered into a contract for the space of one year only, from the first of November, 1880, for carrying the mails between Edmonton and Winnipeg, with Mr. James McLean, of Winnipeg. This contract was continued until the 31st October, on the representation of the former contractor, the Hon. James McKay.

### CAPE TORMENTINE RAILWAY.

Sir ALBERT J. SMITH enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to make provision during the present Session for the construction of the Cape Tormentine Railway?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The Government have not yet decided to make provision this Session for the construction of the Cape Tormentine Railway.

### THE CUTTING OF TOBACCO.

Mr. STRANGE enquired, Whether it is the intention of the Government to amend in any way the Excise regulations at present in force prohibiting the cutting of tobacco by retail tobaccoists, and the sale thereof?

Mr. MOUSSEAU. It is not the intention of the Government to make any change in the regulations. I may add