

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. No; he will not take it back.

Mr. BLAIN. I am reading from the report of session 1874.

Mr. McDonald (Cape Breton) said that when they made the charge a few evenings ago, the gentleman did not give the statement a denial, and therefore he considered he stood convicted of the charge. He might say in reference to the letter, that he attained possession of it the second day after the election. He knew the handwriting of the hon. Minister of Militia, and was satisfied that it was written by him. He had since shown the letter to several gentlemen who also said it was written by the Minister of Militia. He handed the letter to the right hon. member for Kingson and had not seen it since.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). I asked at that time that the letter should be produced and laid on the table of the House, and if it had been written by me I should have acknowledged it before the whole House. What was the reply? The reply was that it was in the possession of Doctor Tupper, then in Montreal; and they dared not bring it before the House, because they knew I never wrote it.

Mr. SPROULE. Why didn't the hon. member deny it then?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. INGRAM. The hon. member (Mr. Ross) did not deny it then and he has never prosecuted any one for being charged with writing it.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). I never had an opportunity to prosecute.

Mr. INGRAM. He waited until the gentleman was dead and now he gets brave. I am surprised at my canny friend (Hon. Mr. Ross) getting angry.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). Does my hon. friend (Mr. Ingram) mean to say that I wrote that letter? I deny it before this House and before my Father in Heaven.

Mr. INGRAM. I have not missed my hon. friend on his long journey.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. ALEX. JOHNSTON. Cowardly.

Mr. INGRAM. Cowardly! The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ross) did not deny it then, and he never prosecuted the man—

Some hon. MEMBERS. He denies it now.

Mr. EMMERSON. He never had the letter on which to prosecute.

Mr. INGRAM. My hon. friend said—

Mr. GALLIHER. Why don't you apologize frankly when you are wrong?

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). I will make another explanation. The editor of the

Mr. ROSS (Victoria).

North Sydney 'Herald' who at that time was as prominent a partisan and supporter of the Conservative party as there existed in Cape Breton, denied it in an editorial at that time and I have that editorial in my possession among my private papers. The editor of that paper said that he could see the man who wrote that letter every day. I found out afterwards who wrote it, and I challenged the government and the man who made the charge against me to prove it. It was not a man from the province of Nova Scotia, but they got a man from the province of New Brunswick to do it. I challenged them to produce the letter and put it on the table of the House and it was never done. They knew better.

Mr. INGRAM. I understand that the man who made the charge is alive to-day, and if the hon. gentleman wants to prosecute him; I suppose he can.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). That man knew better than to make the charge, but he gave it to a man in New Brunswick who is not living, and who was afterwards elevated to be a judge of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. INGRAM. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ross) has denied writing the letter himself; he has not said that he had not any knowledge of it.

Mr. WM. ROSS (Victoria). I had no knowledge of it at all until I heard it was produced in this House.

Mr. GALLIHER. Oh, take it back.

Mr. INGRAM. Take what back? Better save your time because I don't have to take it back.

Mr. GALLIHER. Don't you think it would be a manly thing to take it back?

Mr. INGRAM. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Galliher) is addressing his remarks to me, I can tell him that I have nothing to take back. It is for the man who made the statement to take it back.

Mr. BUREAU. And you are endorsing that statement.

Mr. INGRAM. It is a matter of record.

Mr. BUREAU. False record.

Sir WILLIAM MULOCK. It does appear to me that after the statement of the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Ross) it is not fair; it is not worthy the position of any member of this House to suggest that such a fraud has taken place. Out of respect to the dignity of parliament it is not proper to suggest that what my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Ross) has said, is not true. The hon. gentleman has given this a most unqualified denial. Surely there is something due from one gentleman to another in this House, especially when you consider