

"remonstrance it was because they had themselves sent a remonstrance. (Hear, hear.)  
 "It was well understood that some of the Conservatives who had signed the larger petition  
 "had acted more or less with us, but those to whom he had previously referred, were  
 "outside of that number. No one could contemplate the recent high handed proceeding  
 "without feeling it to be a gross outrage, which must not be permitted. (Hear, hear.)  
 "He was quite aware that in times like these, when outrages were consummated by  
 "Government, that persons sometimes expressed themselves more strongly than prudence  
 "and the circumstances justified; but in this case an attempt had been made to sap the  
 "very foundations of the independence of Parliament. (Applause.) Since he had sat in  
 "Parliament he had ever kept in view all legislation which should have a tendency in  
 "the direction of Parliamentary independence; but in this instance, to screen Ministers  
 "from a charge of the grossest corruption, of which a good *prima facie* case had been made out  
 "—it was attempted to violate that independence. (Applause.) He had no doubt that  
 "from his point of view, the Governor General was right when he said that he was  
 "bound to take the advice of his advisers; but we had one English writer—an authority  
 "both on law and history—who had said otherwise; this writer, *Goldwin Smith*, said  
 "plainly in a letter in the *Witness*, as well as in an article in the *Canadian Monthly*, that  
 "the members of the Committee of Inquiry were right in refusing to allow it, without  
 "the authority of the House, to be turned out of doors by a Royal Commission appointed  
 "by the parties accused. He takes the ground that the Ministry are not in a position to  
 "advise His Excellency as to a prorogation or commission, but must take the prerogative  
 "into his own hand. (Hear, hear.) It must be borne in mind that Parliament had ap-  
 "pointed a Committee, whose operations were frustrated by agencies which were con-  
 "trolled by the Administration. (True, true.) He explained that the majority of the  
 "Committee were appointed by the Ministry themselves—the accused parties, who  
 "declined to take evidence without oath, whilst the majority were perfectly willing to  
 "have all the witnesses, even were they Ministers themselves, to be examined without  
 "this, not fearing that they would tell a lie. (Applause.) Matters were in this position  
 "when the Parliament met, as it had done to-day; constitutionally there was no necessity  
 "for swearing witnesses, merely to bring them under the punishment due to perjury if  
 "they committed: it this was because the House could deal with them as it pleased, and  
 "punish them if necessary, although they did not see the necessity for it. Members  
 "were willing to allow the Oath's Bill to pass. He had been also willing to allow  
 "evidence to be taken without the sanctity of an oath, as he believed that those who  
 "would tell a lie would have no objection at all to swear to it. (Applause.) While  
 "matters were in this state His Excellency's advisers had advised the Governor to pro-  
 "rogate the Houses, thus turning the people's representatives out of doors, without giving  
 "them an opportunity of discussing the matter, or the resolution which he had offered.  
 "In order to prevent this, the Usher of the Black Rod had been directed to wait at the  
 "door of the Chamber, and knock the very moment the members entered. This was to  
 "prevent discussion, and make it impossible to deal with his resolution. At length he  
 "got it into the hands of the Speaker, who was the constituted protector of the Members  
 "of Parliament. He was sorry to say, however, that it appeared to him that his  
 "authority was to be used otherwise; for he displayed unusual anxiety to prevent it  
 "reaching his own hands and to prevent its entrance on the Minutes. He desired to say  
 "that in this country, which was governed by Parliament, a cry would go out from end  
 "to end of the land against the indignity which has been put on it, and if the Govern-  
 "ment sought to escape from the consequences of their crime, they would find that their  
 "action only served to intensify the feeling. It now became the Members, as rulers of  
 "the country, to do nothing unseemly, but to take every step to maintain their dignity;  
 "and, at the same time, to use every legitimate and lawful means to obtain the opinion  
 "of the country. (A voice: 'That's the advice to-day.')  
 "Mr. Blake did not think that Mr. Mackenzie had left much room for him to say  
 "anything. Up to this, he had felt it his duty not to interfere at all in the matter, in

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