

whom were admitted to be partizans of the Government. Delay after delay had taken place, and they had not yet submitted their report to the House. What was the meaning of the suspicious delay? What security would there be if this measure should be passed that the majority of that committee would not whitewash their friends and endeavor to retain them in their seats? In fact, the chairman of that committee had stated in his (Mr. Miller's) hearing the other night, that there might be danger of some such course in favor of their friends at the expense of their enemies. Was it wise, then, to remove the control which this law now afforded to the minority over the misconduct of the Government and their supporters in all cases? Such a measure as the bill before the Senate coming from the House of Commons, and from the men in power, was a most bitter and humiliating commentary on the inconsistency and dishonesty of their past professions, as well as on their past disreputable allusions to this House. If ever there was retributive justice, it was on the men who had sent up here this whitewashing bill, the men who had assailed the Senate in language which he would not offend the House by repeating. If ever well-merited punishment was meted out to men, if ever hypocrisy and corruption had been thoroughly exposed, it was in the present position of this great Reform party—this party of purity, which was going to elevate the standard of public morality—who had to appeal to this House (this asylum for political Magdalens, as they called it, to pass an act to save their friends from the effects of a systematic violation of the law which was intended to secure the independence of Parliament. But what had Parliament been doing all the past session? When the people were looking to this Legislature for wise laws to remove the prevailing depression and restore our departed prosperity, they found their representatives occupied—to the exclusion of everything else—in a dastardly attempt to hound to the death the most distinguished statesman Canada had ever produced—a man who had done more for his country, and given more of his talents, means and affections to the greatness and welfare of Canada, than all his enemies combined. This had been the sole sessional work of the men who now governed the country, and from whom now emanated this bill to whitewash the corruption they had themselves created in the House of Commons. If ever there was retributive justice, he would repeat, it was apparent now in the humiliating position in which these men found themselves, and whatever

might be the sense of the House with regard to this bill, he would have great pleasure in recording his vote against it.

Hon. Mr. READ said this was certainly an extraordinary measure. What position would the House of Commons be in after getting it? A pretty spectacle it would be next session when Parliament assembled, with thirty or forty members of the Commons not knowing whether they had a right to their seats or not. The Government having the majority could instruct the Committee on Privileges and Elections to seat their friends and unseat their opponents. The utterances of the Chairman of that Committee plainly indicated that was the intention. Many of the men this bill was designed to whitewash, had been brought into trouble by the Government who had issued letters instructing officials to purchase from friends of the Administration, and as soon as a purchase was made from a member of Parliament, they felt that they were sure of his vote, because his seat would be endangered by voting against them. He did not say they had done this intentionally in every case, but in one instance it was positive they knew they were doing wrong. If the Senate should pass this measure, they would deserve the indecent language which had been applied to it by a member of the present Administration in another place. No doubt a good many members of the other House must have their feelings harrowed up a good deal by the suits brought against them, but having taken the penny, they must abide by the consequences. For his part, he would not vote for the bill.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said the bill was so extraordinary in its character he was surprised the Government should present it for the consideration of this House, and he did not wonder that they had not pressed it earlier in the session. Had it been a bill for the purpose of relieving people from the penalties the act imposed, where it had been decided they had lost their seats, or where members had resigned, one would understand why they should be indemnified in this manner, but it was proposed by this measure, before any member had been pronounced guilty, to step in and declare in advance that they should not be subject to the penalty the act imposed for violating the independence of Parliament. It was impossible to believe, in some of the cases, there was entire innocence of what was going on on the part of the tempters and the tempted, that there was absolute ignorance on one side of pecuniary favors conferred, and on the other of obligations accepted, calcu-