

DALTON MCGARTHY'S REPLY

TO

SIR JOHN THOMPSON

AT THE

Mass Meeting in Toronto, April 22nd, 1889.

After a few preliminary remarks, Mr. Dalton McCarthy, who was received with loud and prolonged cheering, said :—He had been witness in his career to votes upon great questions, and he had seen both parties rally all their forces in order to make the best appearance in number in the vote they would put before the country ; and he had seen the whips scatter right and left for the purpose of drumming up those who were absent on business or, pleasure, and bringing them to record their vote. But he never witnessed before, and he doubted if parliamentary history recorded such another scene as they saw on the 27th of March last, when the whips of both sides rallied all their forces—what for ? Not merely to record for or against the Government, but unanimously to put down the few men prepared to speak out, independent of party, what they believed to be in the true interests of the country. Why did the Government take this trouble ? Were they not assured of a sufficient majority when they saw Mr. David Mills rise in his place in the House and announce his intention of supporting the Administration ? When they realized that the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Laurier, was only too anxious to announce on the floor of Parliament that he was not to be bullied or hectorated by the *Globe* newspaper, and that he proposed to record his vote notwithstanding the threat of the leading Liberal organ of Ontario ? Why was the Government so anxious to poll this large vote, seeing that their position was safe ? The supporters of the resolution were not in a very large majority—(laughter)—and he thought he must admit that they were rather out-talked as well. But even in that small matter they hardly got what we call British fair play. Col. O'Brien moved his resolution—(cheers)—in a speech, as all will admit, of singular moderation ; and he was entitled to a reply ; he was entitled to hear from the Treasury benches what they had to say to the accusation then made on the floor of Parliament against their action in refusing to disallow this obnoxious Bill. Then Mr. Barron, from the Opposition, and Mr. Clarke Wallace, a representative of one of the ridings adjoining this city, also assailed the policy of the Government, and yet the Treasury benches were dumb. It is true Mr. Rykert rose—(laughter and hisses)—it is true that Mr. Colby followed—(hisses)—but were we not entitled—was not a member of Parliament—no matter who he was or what he was, he was a representative of the people—was he not entitled to hear, not through Mr. Rykert's lips, who knew not what had passed in Council ; not from Mr. Colby, who occupied no position authorizing him to speak for the Government, but from some member of the Administration—(cheers)—were we not entitled to hear what were the reasons which had induced them to allow the opportunity, as it were, to pass to veto this Bill ? (Hear, hear.) When he (the speaker) rose—and he only rose when a moment further would have forever closed his lips—the Speaker of the House was on the eve of calling in the members. He rose and moved the adjournment of the debate—(hear,