

HON. DR. TUPPER'S  
SPEECHES  
ON THE ADDRESS.

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FEBRUARY, 1878.

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HANSARD REPORT.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Tuesday, 12th Feb., 1878.*

MR. TUPPER: Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed some strange scenes in this House, but I think, amongst the strangest of them all is the speech just delivered by the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat. We have occasionally had a good deal of liberty taken with the intelligence of the House and the intelligence of the country, and we have seen gentlemen exhibiting an amount of daring that, perhaps, might be called presumptuous; but I must confess that, during the period I have had the honour of a seat in this House, I have never listened to a speech addressed to this Parliament so characterized by all these features as the one to which I have just listened. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat—or rather, I should say, has just left his seat—has ventured to

say that the party to which he belongs, the Government of which he is a member, have been characterized, eminently characterized, by an adhesion to principles. A venerable member of this House, on a former occasion, characterized the hon. gentleman opposite as an “organized hypocrisy,” and I would ask whether the experience of the past four years has not carried the conviction home to the mind of every honourable and intelligent member of this House, that no two words in the English language would better characterize the gentleman than the language presented by Sir Francis Hincks in those two words. I say that, if an insult could be offered to the intelligence of this Parliament, it is for any gentleman to venture, in the light of the last four years’ experience, upon the presumptuous, the unfounded, the daring statement, that those gentlemen have paid any attention to principle at all. I stand in the presence of an intelligent Parliament, and I ask where is the man who will at this hour—I will not ask them to establish the assertion that has