

may be allowed to myself, a humble member of the Opposition, I venture to say that my right hon. friend would have consulted the dignity of his position and that of his party better if he had replied to that speech in the spirit in which it was made. I am sorry to say that, in my opinion, he did not. My right hon. friend seems to think that his first duty to the House and the country was to indulge in personal abuse. In that he was quite mistaken. The issue was not a personal one in this House, and neither was the personal issue raised last night. Quite the reverse. The issues raised were those between the parties, the issues on broad questions of policy and administration, and those issues were placed calmly and forcibly and at no greater length than they deserved by my hon. friend. As raised by him, they had their point and their force, and my right hon. friend felt their point and their force, and endeavored to parry them as well as he could by indulging in what may, without exaggeration, be denominated a tirade of personal abuse of my hon. friend who spoke last night. He may have succeeded in leading away the minds of the hon. gentlemen who sit behind him. They may consider that in this sort of personal encounter there is balm for broken pledges, for unwise policies and wretched administration; but my hon. friend mistakes the temper and the intelligence of the people if he thinks that fireworks of that kind will avail in the country against lapses and faults such as I have alluded to.

My hon. friend's defence is for the moment, but not one which will stand the test of time and reflection and fair thought, and it will receive time and reflection and fair thought by the electorate of this country, or I am much deceived in that electorate. He found fault with the leader of the Opposition for the length of time he took in presenting his views last night. Five hours is a considerable length of time, but not by any means sufficient to properly go over and expose to public view the follies of the hon. gentlemen who sit on

the Treasury benches, and who play with principles just as easily and thoughtlessly as they play on public credulity. Five hours is but a small portion of time to devote to the gross inconsistencies of hon. gentlemen opposite as public men, and from which they propose to escape by a torrent of personal abuse. Five hours is a very small proportion of time to be devoted to the broken pledges of hon. gentlemen opposite—pledges which they made, and made for their party profit, pledges by which they obtained party profit, pledges by means of which they reached the seats which they occupy in this House, pledges which today they cynically repudiate—no, not repudiate; they have passed beyond that stage. This has been a matter of stages, of phases of development with hon. gentlemen opposite. When they first came back from the country with their broken pledges trailing behind them, they were apologetic and somewhat shamefaced. They protested that, though they pledged in sincerity and meant to carry out their pledges, they found great obstacles, which were hard to be surmounted. But, give us time, they said to their followers behind them; give us time, they said to the country that was watching them, and you will find that every pledge will be redeemed. That was phase No. 1. Phase No. 2 left the ground of protest, and took the ground of apology. But last year they got beyond the ground of apology, and took the ground of open repudiation. They have advanced a stage further this year, if we are to judge by what has been said by the right hon. gentleman who has just spoken. Now they will neither protest nor apologize nor repudiate; they will simply ignore the whole thing, as though they had no past, and as though history were a thing unknown in this country. Well, Sir, we do not intend to let these hon. gentlemen ignore the past. We intend to put their past before them, and to keep it before them, and keep it before the country as well. The right hon. gentleman had a good deal of fault to find, a good deal of fun to make with my hon. friend, (Sir Charles Tupper) beside me. Amongst other things he