

gave that an emphatic and strong denial, and if there had been words in the English language stronger than the words used he would have used them and stamped the person making that charge with that infamy he deserved. That gentleman's hairs would be white with the snow of eighty winters before that stain would be wiped out of his character. Those who knew him (Mr. Wood) for many years would know whether or not *a priori* he could be guilty of such a charge. The hon. member had nevertheless so far forgotten his honor as a man as to repeat the charge to-night. The hon. gentleman said he did not pick up this paper and paste it together, but the receiver was as bad as the thief.

As to this matter of private letters, if they and private conversations were to be disclosed, then all intercourse between hon. gentlemen would be at an end. He had often been tempted to make allusions to private matters, but he had never done so. He adverted to the conduct of Sir John A. Macdonald in disclosing the contents of private letters from Mr. Scott. He had been charged by the member for Lincoln with accepting a brief from both parties, and at one time supporting and at another time opposing the Government. Did the hon. gentleman suppose that he must either support all the acts of the Government or oppose all their acts? He would not so denude himself of his manhood. Hon. gentlemen might call him inconsistent, but the people could discriminate between a slavish support of either side and an independent, honest, and outspoken course. He would not stop to handy words with the hon. member for South Grey; he had more important