

such a state of things is tolerated, that those who hold the highest position in the land do not deny those charges, then there is danger ahead. We cannot have corruption in high places to that extent. Corruption if it does not exist, must be denied by the members of the Cabinet; if they have not received money subsidies to aid railways with which they are connected and that is charged; if they have not participated indirectly in printing contracts, if they have not been recipients of testimonials subscribed for among others by contractors with whom they have had dealings, then I hold that they cannot ignore the charge. It is made by a gentleman of too high a position, it is made in the Parliament of Canada and to the face of those hon. gentlemen. They must rise in the interests of their party and deny that those charges are true. They will have an opportunity of doing so. I hope they may be able to deny them for the sake of the country. It will be a sad thing if such a charge can be sustained. We have to recognize this fact, that if there be any danger to the nation it does not come to us in the nature of extravagant expenditure, especially in a country like this. We may commit errors of administration, we may have extravagant management of our affairs; but we are a young country and we are a resolute people, and we can surmount evils that come upon us in that direction; but if we are to have, what has been charged upon these gentlemen and yet not denied, corruption in the very highest places in the land, then, Sir, there is a dark outlook for this country. Everything tells us that. I need but remind you, Mr. Speaker, of a nation that was once brought out of slavery by a great deliverer, who was their great law giver and judge, and dwelt in a goodly land and became one of the most noted nations the world has ever seen. To that nation were given laws by the great law giver and ordinances which were to be observed, given by wisdom greater than any wisdom that man is man, and the principals contained in those laws have formed, I am

happy to say, the basis of the laws and Governments of the British Empire, of which it is our boast to form a part. What was the instruction given to the judges and officers that were to rule over that nation by this great law giver just before he was to lie down and die and leave other men to step into his place. His charge to those occupying in that nation at that time positions similar to the positions occupied by hon. gentleman opposite was:

"Thou shalt judge the people with just judgment. Thou shalt not respect persons—neither take a gift, for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise and pervert the words of the righteous."

The truth of those words no man pretending to belong to the British nation will dare to deny. They were given to the nation in order that it might maintain its record as a nation, in order that it might maintain its existence as a nation. But there crept into that nation corrupt rulers, men filled with the spirit of covetousness, and the great seer of that nation, who saw into the future, and saw that country, that was his glory and his pride, about to be degraded and cast from its high station amongst the nations of the earth, gave utterance to this wail:

"Everyone coveteth gifts and followeth after reward; they judge not the fatherless neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them."

Yes, if you have those bearing rule in high places whose hearts are set on gifts, who followeth after reward, before such men it is vain to plead the cause of the widow and fatherless. If the nation does not heed and by its legislation attend to and promote interests of the poor and defenceless, then the administrators of that nation fail to perform their duty and their continuance in office will lead to the collapse of the very prosperity of the nation. We must have true men in high places; I speak not in a pharisaical spirit. This charge cannot be answered by: "You are another." I hear people often say,