

Mr. M. H. Richey were engaged in playing off Mr. Robb, when Dr. Parker and Almon and Hon. James Macdonald and the others were doing all in their power to secure Mr. Robb's election, the vote in this county stood, totals, Jones 2,979, Robb 834. We see no reason why, if the citizens of Halifax are true to their own interests, Mr. Richey should receive a larger vote than Mr. Robb. The latter had greater claims to the support of a large number of the electors than has Mr. Richey. We think there are very few of those who voted for Mr. Jones in 1874, but will do so now; and it is quite certain that many who were led away by strong partizan sentiment in 1874 to oppose Mr. Jones, will now in the interests of Halifax give him their support."

There was the statement which was made by one of the strongest supporters in the press of the hon. gentleman, and it declares that he had a right to expect that the same parties which sustained him in 1874 would sustain him then, with this addition, that a large number of gentlemen, seeing the interests of Halifax trembling in the balance, as was the case at that moment, would not work against a Minister of the Government with whom they were negotiating. But I happen to have evidence that the hon. gentleman has the greatest respect for, and which will settle this question and satisfy the House that he expected, or that if he did not expect, he ought to have expected the same majority which he had in 1874. I will give the hon. gentleman the evidence of his own statements. I undertook to say on the floor of this House, a year ago, that a great change had taken place in the city and county of Halifax, and in the public sentiment of the country; I ventured to say that on that occasion, because of what had taken place, when a Senatorship fell vacant. Every man in Nova Scotia, as well as every gentleman in this House, agreed that the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Power) was entitled to it, and this position was offered to that hon. gentleman and was accepted by him, but it was abandoned because, when these gentlemen called a meeting of their supporters for the purpose of selecting a successor to run the election, they found that it would not be well to go into such an election at all. Now, I will give the answer which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Jones) ventured

to give me in this House on that point, and I will convince him that if he did not think that his majority of 1874 was a strictly party majority, he thought it was a majority on which his party could rely now, or at all events he ought to have thought so, because he said so. The hon. gentleman then said:—

"The hon. gentleman, in referring to the condition of the public mind, said that the government had not ventured to open the constituency of Halifax, because they were afraid that an Opposition member might be returned. There was no one more anxious than himself, that his colleague, who had so long and worthily represented the county, should have taken that position, if he had thought it consistent with his own feelings. If, however, the hon. gentleman had done so, and there had been an election he would have been returned by as large a majority as he (Mr. Jones) had at the last election."

There, Sir, is his own declaration; that is, that his majority of 1874, was, last election, as I contended it was, secured with the same condition of parties that existed to-day, but with this difference—that the people, the intelligent electors of that fine county and city, had had the opportunity of witnessing the record of this Administration and its mal-administration of affairs for four years, and with that difference the parties ostensibly stood in the same position now as then. And I will invite the attention of the First Minister to the verdict he has obtained—a verdict obtained, as I have shown, by an alliance formed between the hon. gentleman and the strongest men who formerly were opposed to him, in violation of all the principles he had professed and which were professed by the Government of which he is a member. No one can look at that majority of 2,147 cut down to a miserable majority of 228 votes, without seeing that without the power of the Crown being exercised, as it was exercised, in this instance, and the withholding of the writ down to the last moment, so as to make this question, then trembling in the balance, valuable for the Government—instead of having a small majority of 228, in place of a majority of over 2,000, the hon. gentleman would have been in a miserable minority. And