

been talking the merest bunkum. Well, I may have talked that which to some gentlemen might have appeared the merest bunkum; but I am bound to say that, in a long attachment to the party of progress, this is the first time that I have experienced the weight of such a charge. Then the gentleman who has done me the honour to criticise me and my votes says that he recognizes my courage, but it would be an insult if he said that he acknowledged my honesty. Gentlemen, that is a very grave charge. To tell a man that he is dishonest is about as grave a charge as could be launched against him. I am told—I suppose in consequence of my bunkum and my dishonesty—that there is discontent loud and deep in the borough. (No, no.) Well, I should just like to go back a few years. It seems to me only yesterday since I met a crowded meeting—

The REV. WILLIAM SAMPSON: May I put you right upon a matter of fact. (Cries of "Order," and confusion.)

The CHAIRMAN: I beg you will hear Mr. Sampson.

Mr. SAMPSON: I never—(cries of "Order," and confusion.)

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure Sir Edward Watkin would wish Mr. Sampson to be heard.

Sir EDWARD WATKIN: I shall consider it a personal disfavour to myself if Mr. Sampson is not heard with the respect which is fully due to him.

Mr. SAMPSON: Sir Edward has asked as a personal favour to himself that you will hear my explanation. I want to save time. When Sir Edward says that I have charged him with being dishonest, he has altogether misread my letter. (Hear, hear.) What I said was this—Sir Edward has the letter before him—that I should think it an insult to tell him that he was an honest man. Of course it would be an insult: of course he is an honest man: that is my meaning. (Cheers.)

Sir EDWARD WATKIN: Gentlemen, I always wish to have justice done to me, and I should have no right to make that demand if I did not wish to do justice to everybody else; therefore, I think the best way of settling this little interruption which, to some extent, has deranged the order of my speech, would be for me to read the words to which I have alluded. Mr. Sampson says, "I confess I am puzzled. Sir Edward has voted for his former political opponents. I recognize his