

well say that the plot served Sir John Macdonald's electioneering purposes well. It was with that object that it was invented.

Sir John Macdonald's real reason for suddenly dissolving Parliament without a shadow of constitutional ground, and on an imperfect register is now apparent. He knew that the revelations of his system of corruption were coming, and he wanted to snatch a fresh lease of power before they came. Perhaps he also wished to forestall the growth of opinion in favor of closer trade relations with the United States. His plea at first was the necessity of a popular mandate to enable him to proceed with negotiations which he intimated were on foot with the American Government. This plea was quashed by Mr. Blaine's letter, positively denying that any negotiations were on foot. The issue was then shifted to British *versus* American connection, and to excite the loyalty of the country and its feeling against the United States, the Wiman plot was fabricated. The materials were obtained in a way characteristic of Sir John Macdonald's lofty statesmanship. An American brochure, on the policy of the United States toward Canada, was being printed at Toronto for the benefit of revision with regard to names and figures by a Canadian journalist who had been on the American press and was connected with the writer. No one except the writer and reviser had ever seen or heard of the paper or knew anything about the matter. The proof was stolen from a printing office by a spy in the interest of Sir John Macdonald, and was used by Sir John Macdonald as proof of a conspiracy of the Liberal leaders with the American Government to force Canada into the Union. To connect my name with the plot Sir John Macdonald's personal organ printed an alleged set of instructions from me to the printer, directing that a pamphlet of my own should be set up uniform with the treasonable American paper. The instructions were a forgery, risked no doubt in the belief that the real instructions would have been thrown away. Thrown away they had been, but they were luckily recovered. They directed that my pamphlet should be set up uniform with a previous pamphlet of my own. Thus the forgery was exposed. To bolster up the fabrication, Sir Charles Tupper produced two stolen letters, the use of which did not seem to him inconsistent with his position as a member of an order of chivalry. One of these was from Mr. Edward Farrer, a writer on the *Toronto Globe*, to Mr. Wiman, saying that he (Mr. Farrer) preferred a movement in favor of political to one in favor of commercial union. The other was from Representative Hitt, to whom Mr. Wiman handed Mr. Farrer's letter, saying that he did not agree with Mr. Farrer's opinion. The

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