

West Territories. Hon. gentlemen were silent, hon. gentlemen were dumb, they opened not their mouths. Six months afterwards, and just on the eve of a general election, a pamphlet was issued, I suppose by the Department of the Interior, or by the Department of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, challenging the correctness of the statements I made, charging me with having garbled the reports, misread the reports, forged the reports. This pamphlet was printed at the *Hamilton Spectator* office, at confidential rates, and scattered broadcast all over the wide Dominion at the public expense. On the eve of the election, three Ministers of the Crown travelled all over western Ontario and visited my constituency, as they had a perfect right to do. I am within the mark when I say that at least one-half the time occupied in the delivery of each speech by those hon. gentlemen, was taken up with assaults upon myself individually, charging me with misconduct, misrepresentation, using forged extracts of the reports, and with all the sins that politicians are known and not known to commit. I sought an opportunity on the platform of defending myself. In my own town where these hon. gentlemen addressed a large audience, I made an application to one of the leading Conservatives in the town for leave to speak one hour in reply, and I was refused. I then made application to have half an hour, and I was again refused. I have had no opportunity of meeting these hon. gentlemen face to face until to-day. When I could not meet them upon the platform I issued a challenge to the then First Minister of the Government, which was published in the daily papers in Toronto, and a copy of which, in the following words, was mailed, by registered letter, to the right hon. gentleman:

"To the Right Hon. Sir JOHN MACDONALD,

"Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.

"SIR.—On the 19th of this month you visited the west riding of the County of Huron on a political mission—as you had a perfect right to do. On the same day you and two of your colleagues held meetings at Dungannon and Goderich, to discuss political questions—as you had a perfect right to do. At both those meetings you assailed me in no measured terms, respecting the charges made against your management of Indian affairs. On the floor of Parliament, and in the presence of the representatives of the people, I arraigned you and your Government for gross mismanagement, for cruel and callous neglect, in your administration of Indian affairs. That indictment was preferred against you on the 15th of April, 1886. Parliament did not prorogue until the 2nd of June. You had thus ample opportunity to answer me before the Commons of Canada. You did not attempt the hopeless task. Six months after I arraigned you, you caused some of your underlings to prepare and issue a pamphlet, which purports to be a reply to the charges I made against you in Parliament. This pamphlet you caused to be printed, not by the Queen's Printer, Ottawa, but at the *Hamilton Spectator* office, at 'confidential rates,' and to be scattered by the thousands all over Canada, at the public expense. Then you visited my constituency and availed yourself of the opportunity, behind my back, to denounce me, to charge me with having garbled the public reports and having preferred false charges against you. But you took good care not to invite me to your meeting, not to give me a chance, in my own constituency, of meeting you face to face and answering your slanders then and there. I now challenge you to meet me, either at Dungannon or Goderich, at any time you may name within one month, to discuss your Indian policy, when I shall prove to the satisfaction of all reasonable men that the charges I made against you and your Government are, in nearly every case, absolutely, in all, substantially correct; that the pamphlets issued anonymously, under your supervision, and which you have not the courage to father, in answer to my indictment and in justification of your con-

duct of Indian affairs, garbles the official reports, misquotes the official records, misrepresents the official blue-books, emasculates the official returns, and is, in other respects, knowingly, wilfully, and audaciously false.

"I have the honour, &c..

"M. C. CAMERON.

"GODERICH, 26th November, 1886."

Sir, as I have said, the first opportunity I have had of defending myself is here to-day, and I am glad that it is upon the floor of this Parliament, where I made the charges, I propose now substantiating them to the extent of my humble ability. On the platform, behind my back, and when I had no opportunity of answering, I found those hon. gentlemen were bold and defiant: I found that they had made use of language in respect to me which was not justified under any possible circumstances, and I shall venture to submit quotations taken from the Government organs, of what those hon. gentlemen said of me, and then I shall challenge the hon. gentlemen to make good the charges they so levelled against me. At Peterborough, on the 3rd December, 1886, that elegant, refined and polished French Chevalier, the hon. the Secretary of State said of me: "His political associates are freethinkers—secessionists, annexationists, rebels, felons, traitors;" and that I myself was a "scandal-monger and a skunk." At Hamilton, on 2nd November, 1886, another member of the Government said of me, that I garbled the official reports, I misread the official records, I misquoted the official reports of the Indian Departments. At Orillia, on 2nd December, 1886, the same hon. gentleman said of me, that I was the father of lies. Then the dignified and refined and polished and unctuous Minister of Justice, not to be outdone by the Secretary of State, spoke of me in language that even the Secretary of State hardly ventured to make use of, and which I think anyone listening to the hon. gentleman in the Parliament of Canada will be surprised to find he did use even respecting a political adversary. At Guelph, on 7th November, 1886, that dignified and polished and unctuous gentleman said of me:

"He strung out lie after lie, false quotation after false quotation, garbled extract after garbled extract, manufactured statement after manufactured statement, and out of sixty charges, fifty-nine were deliberate falsehoods."

And again, not satisfied with the polished, and refined, and elegant language the hon. gentleman made use of on that occasion, at Welland, on 16th November, the same hon. gentleman said of me:

"It was subsequently found that these charges were based upon deliberate forgeries and falsehoods. It was subsequently developed that the documents on which these charges were based were the most impertinent forgeries ever put before the public."

Such, Mr. Speaker, was the eloquent, choice, refined and polished language made use of by the Minister of Justice and by his colleagues, such was the language made use of by three Ministers of the Crown, two of them belted knights and one an Imperial privy councillor, and three of them, Canadian privy councillors, speaking behind an adversary's back of what a political adversary said in Parliament. Outside of Parliament, I would say these statements were false and unfounded; inside of Parliament, I will content myself by proving it. I was charged by these hon. gentlemen with uttering deliberate falsehoods; I was charged with making false quotations, I was charged with using garbled extracts; I was charged