

## INTERVIEW NUMBER EIGHTEEN.

### *HUNTINGDON'S IMPEACHMENT OF THE PREMIER.*

REPORTER. When did Mr. Huntingdon make his attack as to the sale of the C. P. R. contract to Sir Hugh Allan?

SIR RICHARD. Early in the session of 1873, and to say the truth it was at first received with a good deal of incredulity. It was not, so to speak, that men put it past Sir John, but few believed that Mr. Huntingdon would be able to produce legal evidence of the transaction, and unless the testimony was overwhelming we knew well enough that Sir John's followers would sustain him.

REPORTER. Did the public generally take much interest in the matter?

SIR RICHARD. They did not at first. They were puzzled and perplexed, but so many baseless charges had been preferred at various times against public men, or at any rate, so many charges which had not been proved, that many men not specially favourable to Sir John withheld judgment. Meantime Sir John went great lengths. I myself heard him in his place in Parliament take God to witness that he was innocent of the things Mr. Huntingdon laid to his charge, and I was much staggered by it. It was not easy to believe that a man of his experience and legal training would have dared to make such an assertion if he knew that there was clear proof existing against him.

REPORTER. You heard this yourself?

SIR RICHARD. I am sorry to say I did. Sir John must have been in a very desperate mood to venture such a statement. There were certainly some odd things about the whole affair. It has never been very clearly explained how and why Sir John allowed these very compromising letters of Sir Hugh Allan and others to fall into his enemies' hands when he could apparently have got possession of them by paying a comparatively small sum of money. He