

A servant said to him: "You see that old woman passing the other side of the street?" "Yes," said Mr. Tupper. "When I was an infant, my mother sent me out to nurse, and placed me in the charge of that woman; she traded me off for another child; I was not sent back to my mother, but the other child was; she often said to me that old hag cheated me. I really believe Willie you are not the same; and my mother was right, sir, she could see there was roguery about it; and had it not been for that old woman's dishonesty, I no doubt would have been a very different man to-day." (Laughter.) This story is strictly applicable to the "National Policy," which is not the same being at all as when it was a child. (Laughter and applause.) The Opposition have been on this question

#### DRIVEN FROM POINT AFTER POINT

of the original programme until almost none of it remains. They boldly asserted at first much that they have since been compelled to modify or explain away, and they have adopted in the end a platform which may mean as much or as little as may please the fancy, or the prejudices of those who are disposed to be misled. It is said by Tom Hood that there is a certain class of people who take a

#### PLEASURE IN BEING HUMBUGGED,

and there cannot be a doubt that the resolution moved by Sir John A. Macdonald during the last session of Parliament, is in the highest degree suited to those who delight in political charlatanism. It is only necessary to blow a bubble, and see how many will subscribe for soap. (Great laughter.) The country will no more have forgotten than the members who were in the House of Commons at the time, the extraordinary spectacle presented by the late Government in 1870 when they announced at 5.00 p. m. their determination to stand by the tariff as it was, and at 7.30 came down with a proposition to modify it by imposing a tax on coal, salt and breadstuffs. This change was made at the instance of Dr. Tupper, who was not then a member of the Administration. These modifications the Doctor defended at length, as also did Sir John Macdonald; while Sir A. T. Galt, who at that time still declared himself an advocate of the fiscal policy which he had enunciated in 1866, as vigorously opposed them. Dr. Tupper did not pretend to argue at that time that the changes he proposed in the tariff were proposed as other than a means to an end—that end being the freedom of trade of which he stated he had always been a zealous advocate. The ground upon which he supported this pro-

position was this: He said the policy of retaliation was calculated to secure a modification of the tariff of the United States in favor of Canada; and Sir John Macdonald expressed himself in a similar way. If we could not secure reciprocity in trade, they argued, we were to have a reciprocity of tariffs—or, I think, the expression then used by Dr. Tupper was that we were to adopt towards the United States

#### A RETALIATORY POLICY.

The phrase "reciprocity of tariffs" was a later invention. Such was the ground taken in 1870 when the "National Policy" first saw the light. The following year, however, the "National Policy" was abandoned, having been voted down by an immense majority, although the Reform party at the time formed not more than one-third of the representation in the House of Commons.

A large majority of the Conservatives, who had supported the policy, united with the Reformers, after it had been tried for one year, in voting it down, in order not to subject themselves to the odium which it would bring upon them, at the general elections which were shortly to follow. I was not present at the birth of this interesting young waif. It was born during the dinner hour. (Laughter.) It was introduced to Parliament as

#### DR. TUPPER'S BABY.

It was accepted by the Conservative members for the moment as a most proper child. A year later, I was present at its death, and assisted at its funeral obsequies. I had the melancholy pleasure of pronouncing the usual obituary. Dr. Tupper may have regretted its early death, but he did not seem to be a distressed parent. (Laughter.) Although it has since appeared large, vague and shadowy like the ghosts of Ossian. From that period until after Sir John Macdonald and his party were obliged to leave office, they made no serious attempt to modify the tariff in the direction of protection to manufactures or any other class of the community. It was not until after they were driven from power, and were seeking for something which they regarded as a popular cry, that the policy of protection was adopted as the policy of the Conservative party. In 1876, Sir John A. Macdonald moved that the "House regrets His Excellency the Governor General has not been advised to recommend to Parliament a measure for the readjustment of the tariff, which would aid not only in alleviating the stagnation of business deplored in the gracious Speech from the Throne, but would also afford fitting encouragement and protection to the strug-