

gentleman for that portraiture, because I know that a great author has said: "Never does a man portray his own character so vividly as in his manner of portraying another." I am obliged to the hon. gentleman for the kindness which he showed to myself, for the care he says he exercised over my tottering footsteps when I entered public life. When I entered public life in this arena, my steps may have been tottering, but, although I had not seen the hon. gentleman, I had learnt of him in history as being one of the most miserable totterers that ever crossed the stage of public life in Canada. I am much obliged to the hon. gentleman, further, for not allowing Parliament to separate, after a session of nearly five months, without his giving us another of those war, famine and pestilence speeches which have so often carried constituencies for the Government. I am obliged to him, when, in reiteration of the denunciations of his country and his countrymen all over Canada, he felt obliged to appeal for support to some authority, he appealed only to himself and read for corroboration one of his own speeches, thus presenting the kind of endorsements which is known in the slang of commerce as "Pork on Bacon." I am much obliged to the hon. gentleman that on the eve of a patriotic occasion such as the celebration of the natal day of this country he has laid aside the mask, even if only for a few hours, and if, when Friday shall have come, the hon. gentleman will blandly smile with satisfaction, we, at least, shall have upon the *Hansard* the record that here, within a few hours of the dawn of the natal day of this country, the hon. member declared from his place in Parliament, the most public place in Canada, that resistance was lawful to a Government like this, and that men were going about the streets asking how long this country ought to be allowed to stand. Sir, it is gratifying for us to know that he has laid aside the mask, even if only for to-night, and though he may masquerade in other disguises, on Friday next, at least the country and the House will have taken the weight of the hon. gentleman, and will have realized, as we all have done, and as the country has done, that the traitor is generally the truckling corruptionist as well. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman paid me a very high compliment; the hon. gentleman, after denouncing his party as guilty of every legislative and electoral crime that a party could be guilty of, turned at last, almost for the first time in the course of an hour's harangue, and pointing at me, declared that I had shown an intimate knowledge of criminal law, and had no doubt been a successful defender of dangerous criminals. Sir, I decline the hon. gentleman's brief.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. You must have the fee first.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I have had some experience, both in defending criminals and in prosecuting them; I have never shrunk in my calling as a member of the bar, from taking any man's case, no matter how desperate it might be, for the purpose of saying for him what he might properly say for himself; but I have sometimes spurned the fee of a blatant scoundrel who denounced everybody else in the world, and was himself the truculent savage of them all. I doubt that the gratitude with which I listened to the hon. gentleman's ad-

dress, will be shared by his followers; I doubt that they will consider that the occasion was the most timely the hon. gentleman could have chosen. They will think that the hon. gentleman might have got off his address at one of the earlier stages of the business of the House, when he forbore to intrude himself upon the attention of Parliament. I think they will recall this evening the sad fact for them, that he, by his personal influence, by the power of his language, by the force of his invective, and by his close criticism of public affairs in this country, has reduced their ranks by 50 per cent since we met last; and they will recall the fact that not only did every constituency which he addressed give a verdict against them, but that every city, town and hamlet in his own province which he addressed, gave a rolling majority against his party; and they will recall the fact that he chose for the occasion of his speech to-day, when they were celebrating another defeat—the wresting of another constituency, almost within sound of my voice, by the Liberal-Conservative party from the hands into which it fell at the last general election. Now, if I cannot elicit from his own supporters the gratitude which I feel towards him, I can at least do this for the purpose of showing my personal gratitude; although the hon. gentleman supposes, I fancy, that he has reflected upon me, that he has even attacked me, and that, perhaps, he has made me feel badly for a moment, notwithstanding that, I, as a member of the Liberal-Conservative party, owe him such a debt of gratitude that if it shall be necessary to retain the hon. gentleman's services in the party which he does not lead, and which would not have him for a leader, and which barely tolerates him as a supporter—if it be necessary to retain him in that capacity I, for one, will propose a subsidy to Parliament to keep him there. I know, Sir, that the hon. gentleman did not do himself half justice when he declared that the task before him was not a pleasant one. Why, Sir, the hon. gentleman would rather abuse his country and defame it, than eat his breakfast any day. I can tell the hon. gentleman that, strong as his language was, doleful as his forecast was, of the future of this country, alarming to some people of delicate nerves, as it might be if they had not heard it before, as we have so often heard it, language about the future of Canada, about the people who are asking how long this country can stand, and about people who are advising resistance to authority in this country, we, for our part, believe that on the part of the great majority of the people of this country, there is no fear and no alarm. Confident of the position which this country has obtained in spite of the efforts of the hon. member for South Oxford, confident in the path that she has chosen for herself, they are not to be alarmed even by the threats of a leading public man who counsels resistance, and declares that the fate of his country is sealed; because they know as well as we know, that when the hon. gentleman talks of resistance, and the death of his country, and all that kind of stuff, his courage is all in his tongue, and that the motto which he carries upon his escutcheon is "Words, not deeds." Sir, the hon. gentleman has made an allusion to me which I may refer to while it is in my memory. Having stigmatized his own party to whom he was point-