

throughout the country, it is solely because the men who have been honoured with the chief places of trust and emolument have betrayed the confidence reposed in them and have proved unequal to the task they assumed—so much is clear. Much stronger language might be employed to characterize their conduct.

After some further reference, the writer proceeds :

If they persist in thinking of themselves,—  
Not of the constitution.

—and refuse to put principle, consistency, honour and duty before their own interests and their own inclinations, they will be held responsible. They may wreck the party, but, if they do, they will go down with the wreck, and never rise again. The party will survive defeat, and will regain power, but the men who lead it to temporary defeat will never be trusted again.

Here is the language of a staunch supporter of the Administration. Would such language as that be used by a journal supporting this Government, if the action of these gentlemen were as pure, disinterested and straightforward as alleged by the Finance Minister to-day? The Toronto "Telegram," an independent Conservative paper, in its issue of the 11th inst., thus alluded to the conduct of these gentlemen :

The seven mutineers—  
Not the seven patriots—

—The seven mutineers forsook Sir Mackenzie Bowell. Their continuance in office under him might endanger their own interests.

That is the inference which that independent supporter of the Government drew from their conduct. The Ottawa "Journal," another independent Conservative paper, said :

Mr. Foster's statement puts the ex-Ministers in the light that they have been more loyal to themselves than either to their Premier or their party.

Sir, there is a newspaper published in Belleville, which is said to be the Premier's own organ. I quote now from the Belleville "Intelligencer," in which the following editorial item appeared :—

Following the surprise and indignation which were aroused in the minds of the people, irrespective of party, by the desertion of seven members of the Bowell Administration on the field of battle, come feelings of sorrow to Conservatives that men whom we had delighted to honour could have so shattered our ideals, and disgust at their disregard of the dictates of honour and the feelings of gratitude by which they ought to have been actuated.

The organ of the First Minister in Belleville evidently did not draw the conclusion that these men were solely guided by their respect for the constitution, but drew the inference that they had degraded the honour and principle for selfish purposes. There is an independent journal published in the city of Toronto, known as the "Evening Star." What inference did the "Evening

Star" draw from the action of these gentlemen? Did it draw the conclusion that they had withdrawn from the Cabinet because of this vacancy? That they had been solicitous to have this vacancy filled up and had manifested their supreme respect for the constitution? On the contrary the "Evening Star" characterized their conduct as follows :—

The shadow of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, the Assassinated, will fall upon every caucus and secret council of the party for years. Faith, the sense of security, reliance upon each other, are gone for a generation. Tricks and treasons will be suspected where they do not exist, and will exist where they are not suspected. Haunted by the wraith of a strangled leader, the party house will permit no repose to the red-handed. Peaceful sleep will be impossible, and waking ease out of the question.

The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), who quoted from Macbeth and conjured up the ghost of Banquo, might much more fitly have compared the bolters to Macbeth who had murdered sleep and peace in their party. The "Evening Star" goes on to say :

The souging of the wind will be ominous; the bellying curtain at the open window will suggest a hidden bravo; the word of a man will be held worthless, and his oath of small value. Before eating, every dish will be tested for poison with the finger-ring of Machiavelli; before sleeping, every couch will be probed with daggers, as in the palace of Henry VIII. Sir Charles Tupper is not the man to lay the ghost. It cannot be done in his generation, nor by one who was accessory before the fact. What is to be done to re-throne Faith and to re-establish Confidence? Shall the men who introduced treachery at the hearthstone be made the heads of the house or sent into exile? Can they be exalted without treachery becoming the whole habit of the ambitious?

Sir, that language was sufficiently clear. Certainly, the writer of that article drew no such inference as the leader of the House to-day desired should be drawn. Again, I quote from the Toronto "World" of the 11th inst. Perhaps the hon. member for East York will give us the name of the gentleman alluded to in the paragraph which I will read, or disavow the article if it was not authorized. The article says :

A Conservative member says—

Is the hon. member for East York at liberty to give us the name?

Mr. MACLEAN (York). I will have to ask our correspondent.

Mr. MULOCK. The Toronto "World" says :

A Conservative member says that they (the seven bolters) made their mistake in acting as if they owned the earth, at least the Conservative section. They overestimated themselves.

Is that the language which should be applied to men who sacrificed themselves on