

any man, although I have been sorely provoked by the hon. gentleman himself. I disdain to take that kind of advantage, although I believe I might be justified if I did take it, and that I might be able to reply to that hon. gentleman in quite as good terms as he has used towards me on numberless occasions. The hon. gentleman has called me a partisan. What is he? What are his supporters? Are they not, many of them, most violent and unscrupulous partisans? Have we forgotten the tyrannous use those gentlemen made of their power when they had it? Did they not taunt us with being in a beggarly minority, with being but a baker's dozen, shrinking and trembling behind the dishonoured member for Kingston? Those courteous and kindly terms were often used by the hon. member for West Durham himself, and we can fancy the licence that he gave to his less fastidious followers. We have not forgotten that, neither have we retaliated. We have used the greatest forbearance, in permitting hon. gentlemen in Opposition to go on from day to day, in discussing subjects which have been long ago exhausted. I would like to know, in the old days of 1875, how long an hon. gentleman sitting where they sit now, and are likely to sit for many years to come, would have been tolerated if he had conducted himself as hon. gentlemen in the Opposition now conduct themselves? How long would it have been before the Ross's and the Goudge's and the Chevals, and gentlemen of that intelligent kind, whose places now know them no more for ever, would have risen and howled down the offender? I believe the Conservative party disdain to take advantage of their strength. They are willing hon. gentlemen shall have their say, and they console themselves with the reflection that if they give them rope enough that thing will happen to them which usually occurs.

Motion agreed to.

TORONTO CUSTOM-HOUSE EMPLOYÉS.

MOTION FOR STATEMENT.

MR. LITTLE, in moving for an Order of the House, for a statement from the Customs Department, showing the class and salary of all parties engaged in the Customs, Toronto, the date of their respective appointments and prefer-

MR. PLUMB.

ments, if any, as well as the duty or duties each such official is called upon to perform, said: The object I have in asking for this return I will briefly state. Some time ago I was informed that certain irregularities existed in the Customs Department at Toronto. In the year 1873, a party was appointed as landing-waiter in Her Majesty's Customs at Toronto, and so well, so efficiently did he perform the duties of that office, that he was called upon to serve in the higher grade or position of searcher, as well; but, strange to say, though performing the duties of the position, his pay still remained the same, \$600 per annum, as when he first entered the service. But this is not all the injustice. Two or three parties who were appointed by the late Government to similar positions, have received, and still receive, \$100 or \$200 a year more, though not even performing the duties of the higher superior class, that the person I have reference to is still undertaking. A year ago I called the attention of the Minister of Customs to this strange anomaly. Since that time several letters have passed between us on this subject, but to no effect; and again, at the commencement of this Session, I ventured to remonstrate with the Minister of Customs at the injustice still remaining, and the hon. Minister told me that he was powerless to act in the matter. He acknowledged the case to be unjust, but said that the late Government was to blame, that it inaugurated the evil. Mr. Speaker, I felt humiliated at such a statement. That because the late Government committed an error was that any reason why the Minister of Customs of the present Government should not endeavour to remove it; it was a bad plea, a wretched argument. What was the present Government here for? Entrusted with the affairs of Canada, is it not to endeavour to do better than their predecessors, or otherwise. If the present Minister of Customs cannot endeavour to remove the complaint, it would be better for the ex-Minister of Customs to come back to his former old position, for who knows that if attention had been drawn to him to rectify the error that he would have removed it. And again, the hon. the Minister of Customs informed me that there were no funds at his disposal. Sir,