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No 756.

NATIONAL LIBRARY
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BANQUET

TO

HON. SIR CHARLES TUPPER, G.C.M.G., C.B.

ON HIS ELECTION FOR THE

COUNTY OF CAPE BRETON

FEBRUARY 6th, 1896

The following is a verbatim report of Sir Charles Tupper's masterly speech at the banquet tendered him by the Liberal-Conservatives of Halifax on Thursday night :

Sir Charles Tupper, on rising, was received with prolonged cheers and applause. He said :

Mr. Stairs, and Gentlemen : I shall have to ask you to be extremely quiet while I address a few words to you, as I find, after the exhaustive efforts of the past fortnight, that I am by no means in possession of that voice which I would like to have at my command to address so great and influential a body of gentlemen as I have the pleasure of seeing before me to-night. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kindly greeting you have given me, and I thank the chairman for the very flattering manner in which he has referred to some of the claims that I may possibly have upon my countrymen. I regret, however, that I must find fault with the chairman at the outset. In enumerating my titles he omitted to refer to that of which I am more proud than all the rest,—the title of "member of parliament" which has just been conferred upon me by the electors of the noble county of Cape Breton. (Loud applause.) The late honourable Mr. Murray,—and I suppose I am not speaking without reason when I say the gentleman who will soon be the Hon. Mr. Murray again (laughter and loud applause), and I take it as a remarkable tribute to myself that before Mr. Murray was able to oppose me he had to cease to be "honourable,"—the late Hon. Mr. Murray issued a card to the electors of the county of Cape Breton showing cause why he should be returned as their representative at the election which has

just closed. And in that card he made the statement that it was a "great emergency." What did he mean by that? I would like him to explain to the editor of the "Morning Chronicle" what the "great emergency" was. The "Morning Chronicle" had announced that a feeble old man was about to assume the leadership of the great Liberal-Conservative party, and the admiring readers of that interesting journal were informed that Sir Charles Tupper was one of the most unsuccessful politicians that the country had ever seen. If that were so, where was the "great emergency?" Was that not just what any sensible opponent of the Liberal-Conservative party would desire, that instead of having a vigorous and successful politician take hold of the leadership of the party, they should have in that capacity a "feeble old man," who had been only remarkable for his want of success in political life? I would like to know what the brilliant editor of that journal would call a "successful" politician. You know that I made my entrance into public life in the year 1855, and when on that occasion the Liberal-Conservative party met the day before the legislature assembled, in a room occupied by one of the members, for the purpose of comparing notes, it was found that the Conservative party were represented in the House of Assembly of the province of Nova Scotia by fifteen members all told. My late revered and lamented friend, the Hon. Mr. Johnston (applause), on that occasion proposed to this corporal's guard, for that was all we were, he proposed to these fifteen gentlemen that I should be entrusted with the re-organization of the Conservative party, and from that hour down to the present, when in parliamentary life, I have had the