

which, I confess, I used to feel when they were formerly hurled at me, unjust as they were, has become somewhat dulled by the repetition of the operation. But as we are here in what is a new Parliament for many, and as for some years those charges have not been made here, I hope the House will not think it out of place that I should have so far trespassed on its indulgence, and I did so because I considered it due to myself and to the respectability of the Chamber of which I have the honor to be a member.

Mr. McCALLUM. I happened to have sat in the House at the time the occurrence of which the hon. member for West Durham has entered into so elaborate an explanation, took place, and last Session I referred to the course he took. The hon. member now admits that he did send the letter across the House, whereas, last year, he repudiated the charge as an exploded slander. I have no desire to slander anybody. I never did so. But I say that there are any number of hon. members in this House, to-day, who will corroborate my statement, when I say that the first intimation we had of Mr. Wood being made to resign his seat, was when the letter "speak now" was sent to him. If there was any arrangement with Mr. Wood through his being dissatisfied with his position in the Government, it must have been at a private interview between him and the hon. member for West Durham. That hon. gentleman tried, on a former occasion, to get clear by saying: "Was I not tried by a Committee?" Yes, he appointed his own judges, framed the charges against himself, and drew up his own resolutions. He wanted to deny this afterwards; and he now puts on an air of injured innocence when he is twitted about his coat tails vanishing through the corridors. I have seen him disappear myself. The House never knew in what position he actually stood. It was a case of now you see it, now you don't.

Mr. MACKENZIE. The remarks of the hon. gentleman who has just spoken are such as I could not allow to pass unchallenged, having been at the time closely associated with the hon. member for West Durham. It was perfectly well known to every one in Toronto at the time, from Mr. Wood's statements, and from the records of the meetings of the Committee appointed to investigate the charges made by the Hon. M. C. Cameron, that he declined to follow up those charges in the Committee unless he obtained his own manner of doing it. The communication of the circumstances made by the hon. member for West Durham are absolutely and indisputably correct. Now, a word with regard to the subject before the House. I was a little surprised to hear the hon. President of the Council announce that he came here in 1867, not to oppose the Minister of Railways, but to endeavor to get better Confederation terms for his Province. I had the honor, if it be an honor, of having been frequently consulted by the hon. gentleman during the first year of his membership in this place, and I formed a very erroneous opinion indeed, from the advice asked of me and the counsels that I was obliged to give him, if he came here with any such humane and proper intention. His intention, so far as I could gather it from his conduct here, and that of other members from the same Province, was that of intense, bitter hostility to the member for Cumberland (Sir Charles Tupper), and to the policy which he successfully carried out in the scheme of Confederation. I never felt any hesitation in saying publicly, in the House and elsewhere, that at that time I had the strongest sympathy with the majority of the people in Nova Scotia, under the circumstances in which they were dragged into Confederation; and it is the weak spot in the conduct of those who effected that change that the vote had been carried in the Nova Scotia House, with the sanction and by means of the proceedings of the hon. member for Cumberland. But I found, after a very short time, that there was a limit to the public virtue of the President of the Council. I found he was amenable to reason, as the saying

is; that contemporaneous with his change in favor of Confederation, and getting Nova Scotia to accept it, was his appointment to a most lucrative office. I found he had not that strong sense of public propriety which should compel any member of this House to decline an appointment and refuse to go to the other House, when he could no longer sit in the House of Commons, which members acting properly have always done. The Minister of Railways declared to-night, with great pride, that he had successively humbled all the leaders of the Reform party in Nova Scotia; from being his strong and successful opponents, he had made them ultimately his followers and even his warm personal friends. Well, I assert that the friendship he acquired when he induced the late Mr. Howe, who was sent to England on a mission by the Nova Scotia Liberal or Anti-Confederate party, whither he was followed by the Minister of Railways—I imagine if it be true that he made proposals which induced Mr. Howe to desert his friends in Nova Scotia, to become an associate with the hon. gentlemen opposite, and ultimately reach the Lieutenant-Governorship by that means; if that be an exhibition of the friendship thus won by the Minister of Railways, long may I be spared friendships obtained and exhibited in such a manner. And so with the others: the friendship of the President of the Council was purchased by his appointment to an office in connection with the Intercolonial Railway. Instead of the hon. gentleman boasting that he had acquired and secured the friendship of his opponents, he ought to have stated frankly, what, I am sure, he is quite prepared to do with his usual boldness, that he succeeded in the course of a few years in debauching the whole of the public men of his native Province. But the hon. gentleman did not succeed, when winning over the enemy, in holding all his own friends. If I recollect aright, Mr. A. Jones was one of his followers, and as he succeeded from time to time in gaining over some of his Liberal opponents by the means I have mentioned, he at the same time sometimes lost the support of his own friends. The hon. gentleman boasts of having succeeded in carrying a majority for Nova Scotia in the present House. We all remember the time when, as regards that Province, he stood here alone, one member against eighteen. Does he mention that or boast of it? Does he boast of obtaining fairly his last victory at the polls, which I hope he has so obtained?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to correct him? He knows that having come here, as he says, one member against eighteen, I went back to the General Election of 1872, and returned to Ottawa with a very large majority. But it was not the first time, and the majority lost in 1874 was regained in 1878.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I believe the hon. gentleman is right; he had a small majority in 1872.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. A large majority of the members elected in 1872; all except one man, were sent here to support the Government of which I was a member.

Mr. MACKENZIE. That was not the opinion of the electors. Those members the hon. gentleman claims may have supported him, for his bewitching manner and skill in winning such aid makes it difficult to know where such help comes from sometimes, though I admit he gained great success in his native Province at the last elections. But at the same time he cannot object to our calling up those reminiscences of the past when he boasts of having taken such associates into his bosom. All know the humiliating spectacle presented by the late Mr. Howe, who had declared at one time that sooner than touch the hand of the hon. gentleman—one of the most prominent men of Nova Scotia at the time—he would cheerfully grasp the hand of a dead Fenian; and yet the hon. gentleman was so cruel as to ask Mr. Howe to introduce that party to