

mon mortals such as you and me, Mr. Speaker. At any rate, they were identified, and a friend of mine pointed them out to an American gentleman travelling with him as distinguished Canadian luminaries.

An hon. MEMBER. Chestnut.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Well, the story will suit. I dare say some hon. gentlemen have heard it before, and it is just as well that they should hear it again. It so happened that the American gentleman had not seen these four pillars of the state before. He regarded them long and carefully, and when asked his opinion of them, delivered it in these few words: "Stranger, if them four fellers are Privy Councillors and Advisers of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, then, stranger, I never said it before and I never thought to say it all, but I do say now and say it from the very bottom of my heart. God Save the Queen." Now, Mr. Speaker, in sad and sober seriousness, one word more. As I said at the outset, if there be one thing which is more essential than another to the good working of representative government, it is that the men who are chosen from the representatives of the people to discharge the important functions of government in any country shall be men who command the respect and honour of the bulk of the community at least. Sir, I say—and in saying it I will have the concurrence of every true man in Canada,—that the honour and character of its public men are the most valuable possessions of any people. I say furthermore that anything which tends to lower and degrade the honour and character of public men in any country, tends to lower and degrade, in the very highest degree, the morality of that whole community; and I say that all the churches, colleges, clergymen and schools collected together can do will fail to undo in generations the evil which has been done by such exhibitions as those we have been compelled to witness within the last few days unless the people—and that speedily—purge and purify themselves from all connection with them by inflicting condign punishment on the men who are responsible for such scenes. We can well believe, knowing what I know, looking at the character of the patent combination now before us, that if they are left in office for a very short time indeed, they may plunge this country into entanglements which will cost at the very least \$100,000,000 to escape from.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. My hon. friends have not sat in Parliament as long as I have or they would know that the predecessors of these men, for the purpose of concealing their infamy, for the purpose of buying a ransom from the consequences of the first Canadian Pacific

scandal—and it was not worse than this—deliberately added more than \$100,000,000, or what if capitalized would have represented more than \$100,000,000 to the capital expenditure of Canada more than twenty years ago. These men are just as capable as their predecessors of adding \$100,000,000 to our debt and charges; but for my part, grave as that may be, I would rather see \$200,000,000 thrown into the sea than see Canada degraded as she has been by the exhibition of falsehood, of treachery, of meanness, of weakness and cowardice which this country has witnessed in the last few days.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat has spoken of a comedy troupe. Well, Sir, if he pursued that figurative way of regarding the present situation, I think he would on seeing these galleries crowded and looking at this House, filled as they are to-day, have asked those who fill the galleries and the House: "What went you out for to see?" They came here to-day expecting to hear the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat and the hon. gentleman who leads the Opposition make such an attack on the Government of Canada as would ring throughout the length and breadth of the land. Well, what went they out for to see? A reed shaken by the wind? Why, a reed shaken by the wind would be respectable compared with the hon. gentleman and his leader. Sir, the hon. gentleman went on very well for a few minutes, with his carefully prepared jokes and his studied impromptus, conned day by day and by the midnight lamp, until he began to review the Government as reconstructed and pointed out one new element in that Government. And, Sir, Macbeth, at the famous feast, when the ghost of Banquo appeared to him, was never so unmanned as was the hon. gentleman by the spectre of Tupper that rose before him. From the moment that he uttered the name of Sir Charles Tupper, Baronet, the sinking of heart that came into his breast many and many a time, the chicken quivering beneath his frock coat, which he had often felt when the war-horse of Cumberland neighed, made itself again felt. Sir, the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald was a keen observer of men; and I well remember his sitting where my hon. friend, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) sits now, and looking over and remarking how much afraid the hon. gentleman who has taken his seat was of Sir Charles Tupper, Baronet. And, Sir, we have seen something of that here to-day. Why, as I once or twice pointed out here, if we are to canvass this Conservative Government with the view of changing it, we have to ask the question: What Government shall succeed? Sir, we have heard the two leaders of the Opposition to-day under circumstances that give to a leader of the Opposition a great