

applicable to his own course during the late election. As that gentleman then remarked, the cry of disloyalty against an Opposition simply meant the sweets of patronage and the beauty of place. He regretted to find the member for Cumberland (Dr. Tupper), bringing a charge of Fenianism and Annexation against those who had opposed him and his friends. The only attempt which had been made to prove the existence of a body of Fenians in any part of the Dominion was by the member for West Montreal (Mr. McGee), but the attempt of that honourable gentleman to cast an imputation on the loyalty of the people of Montreal had most signally failed. Mr. Mackenzie then referred to the appearance of the Premier of Ontario in his (Mr. Mackenzie's) constituency. It was somewhat remarkable that his honourable friend should have considered it consistent with his party proclivities and past associations to have made such efforts to secure his (Mr. Mackenzie's) defeat, and it was all the more remarkable, because, during this crusade, he still claimed to be a Reformer. Indeed, he told the people of Lambton that he had taken the member for London (Mr. Carling) and the member for East Toronto in the Local Legislature (Mr. M. C. Cameron), into his Cabinet, not as Tories, but as apprentices to learn the Reform business, and declared that if they did not learn it very quickly he would kick them out of his Cabinet. Mr. Mackenzie went on to express his fears that the existing Administrators were disposed to curtail, if they could, the powers of the Local Government, the maintenance of which he thought was essential to the success of the political experiment on which we had entered. He went on to express his dissent from the tone assumed by the member for Hants with reference to the ability of Canada to defend herself. In the war of 1812 we were able not only to maintain our own ground but to carry offensive operations into the enemy's country. The population of the United States at that time was something under eight millions, while that of Canada was under four hundred thousand. Now the population of the U.S. was thirty millions, while that of the British Provinces was four millions, so that relatively we were stronger now as a people than we were in 1812. He (Mr. Mackenzie) would not consent to form part of a people that lived by sufferance. He preferred belonging to a people that could assert its own power and nationality—(Cheers)—and whatever may be our future position, in the meantime we had the power of the British empire at our back. And though it might be

[Mr. Mackenzie (Lambton)]

true that the maintenance of these Colonies was, in one sense, a source of weakness to the Imperial authority, it was also a source of power in another sense. Every student of history knew that the fall of the Roman empire dated from the time at which it withdrew its arms from its distant possessions and left its Colonies to shift for themselves. He believed we had territory enough to build up a great nationality in connection with the British Empire. At the same time, he deeply regretted that there had been so much in the tone of a certain class of our public journals and our public men to give rise to an ill-feeling towards us in the United States. He was surprised to find no reference in the Speech to any attempt to obtain reciprocity of trade with the United States. He could scarcely have thought it possible that an Administration could have been in power four or five months without taking some steps to secure a free exchange of our products with the neighbouring country. He regretted also the omission of any reference to the necessity of taking steps for the protection of our shipping. He alluded to the hardships to which our shipping on the Western lakes was subjected under existing American regulations, and said it was a matter which deserved the very serious attention of the Minister of Marine. He proceeded to refer to the resignation of the Minister of Finance. He believed that gentleman had resigned because he knew that the deep feeling of dissatisfaction which prevailed through the Western Province, would soon find expression in this House, even from gentlemen on his own side. The member for Lennox (Mr. Cartwright), had stated that he had been unable to trace any connection between the policy of the late Finance Minister, and the failure of the Commercial Bank. Perhaps the directors of a bank were not the best parties to appeal to in order to assert the reasons of failure on their part, but he knew this, that when the honourable gentleman was passing the bank act of last session, he was warned of its consequences, and the member for Lennox himself pointed out that by giving so much power to one Bank (Montreal) its effect would be to weaken all the others. Very soon after the passage of the act, the Bank of Upper Canada succumbed under the blow, causing a loss to the people who held its bills, in his own constituency of as much as seventy or eighty thousand dollars. Then came the recent failure of the Commercial Bank. The honourable gentleman's bank of issue scheme would be judged in the light of these events, and not of the fine spun theories with which it was