

the south. So far as communications may have gone on with the Government from the riding, I am not in communication with the Government. I do not know their secrets; I do not listen at their key-holes or their lobbies, or go into their bedrooms, so I cannot say whether the hon. gentleman is right or wrong. The county of Huron has a population of over 70,000.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman justifies the division of Huron on the ground that it had a population of something like 76,000, but how does he account for the fact that the county of Grey, with a population of 74,000, is only given two members. It appears that that which has been found to be a justification in the case of Huron has not been found to require similar action in the case of Grey, and the hon. gentleman's suggestion, as to population has not the force, when we consider the whole county, which the hon. gentleman is disposed to ascribe to it when he deals with an isolated case.

Mr. McLENNAN. I think an humble member who has no more relation with the county of Huron than that he happens to be in the same Province, may have a word to say about this matter. This is a question of ridings but it has been made also a question of representatives, and we have had many pathetic appeals from this gentleman and that gentleman who is on the floor of the House, that he must be treated with the courtesy of an appeal, and we have had appeals on behalf of some who expect to be treated as superiors. Now, the chief point in the whole Bill is to give its proper representation to Ontario. Ontario, I think, is admitted to be the heart of this Dominion. It is very important that it should have its proper and full representation. Ontario has, in its time, contributed a great deal to the political history of this Dominion, and it has lately produced, through its representatives, many new and important theories. From this fact, and from the fact that the development of the Dominion must be sustained in a great measure by Ontario, it is important that that Province should be properly represented. It is very uncertain what the future may bring upon us, when that happy millennium comes, when the Reform party will be in power—and I believe it counts on being in power very largely by the influence of Ontario—and it becomes more important what it represents. We are told that when that good time comes we shall have a great many good things; we are to have commercial independence and a representative at Washington; and if we are to have a representative at Washington, it is quite obvious that the present representative for Centre Huron must occupy that position, for the reason that they are very fond of lions at Washington, and the hon. gentleman can roar like Bottom in the play. It is true there are some objections to this; my right hon. friend was not willing to concede, the other night, that we are able to carry out the idea, because we have no army and are not an independent power. Well, we have heard a good deal since then about a little army and its warfare; we had a history the other evening of a war that was fought by our little army, but it was only with beer bottles and jugs, and things of that sort; and I have no doubt that the Premier of Ontario would lend us a legion or two if we required them for our representative at Washington. But when we go back to those whose ancestors a century ago came and took up their homes in Ontario, he will find that they are not identified with independence or with this legendary army of Mr. Mowat's, and our hearts warm to the United Empire; and when we think of 1812, and how our fathers held this country against that theory of independence, again we do not think so much of independence; and if we are to have a representative at Washington, and the question comes up who is to represent Ontario in this House, and who is to be the leader of the Reform party, when that time comes it is very important that we should know now how all

these good things are to be brought about. I believe Ontario will be true to its history, its character and its patriotism; I believe there is something beyond the magnificent intelligence of the hon. the leader of the Opposition that will govern the Province of Ontario; I believe Ontario has a heart as well as a head, and every pulsation of it beats in unison with the Empire, and, in order to preserve our proper relations to the Empire, we want now to guard our representation, we want to see that in the future Ontario shall be represented, as it has been, with a proper regard for the feelings of its people, of the people who have made it what it is, and who, I believe, by their loyalty to the Empire, are prepared to continue it as it is.

Mr. TROW. In connection with the extraordinary changes that have taken place in Huron in the last two hours, I think it would be advisable for the Government to make a still further change, and take in the township they have attached to South Perth. It would be more complete geographically. The county of Perth could have been divided properly without interfering with any other county. The population of South Perth prior to the redistribution was 20,778, and that of North Perth, 34,000. North Perth is now over 26,000, while South Perth is only 21,256. Hon. gentlemen during the Session have boasted of their popularity and strength in the country; yet it is surprising, with their extraordinary majority in this House, and with the feeling which they declare is favorable to them in the country, that they would not face the electors, without all this gerrymandering and disarranging of the complexion of the whole country for political purposes. The operation of hiving has been extensively carried on in North Oxford, in which the Reform majority was about 1,500; in Bruce there would be 1,000 Reform majority; in West Elgin, 500; in North Brant, 700; South Oxford, 800; South Middlesex, 500; one of the Hurons, 600; South Simcoe, 600; West Ontario, 500; making a grand total of 6,500 Reform majority hived in those nine constituencies, and absolutely thrown away from the Reform cause. This total would give a handsome majority of 100 in 65 different ridings if it had been distributed properly. I have not looked over the majority given to strengthen the Conservative interest, but I have no doubt it has been distributed so as to benefit a large number of Government supporters. The Government have, in the second reading of the Bill, changed the complexion of some ridings, and as the Premier offered to go half way to meet the views of one Liberal member, I would have no objection to his meeting me half way also. The Government have taken off my majority in the removal of a township that gave a Reform majority of 200. I understand that the opinion was expressed in Stratford by farmers residing in North and South Easthope a few days ago—and I received my information from an influential person, Conservative resident of Stratford—that the people of those respective townships would resent those changes, and that many farmers would carry their produce to Woodstock instead of to Stratford, to punish the member for North Perth and the Conservatives in Stratford for their action in this matter. I have no doubt they will carry that threat into execution. The hon. gentleman has taken great credit to himself for the extraordinary development of the North-West. I have had some little experience of the North-West, and without desiring to boast I take a little credit to myself for having spent, in exploring that country and proclaiming its advantages, \$6,000 of my own money. I have been writing it up for the last seven years through the press; and now the hon. gentleman is to a certain extent reaping the benefits of my exertions and sacrifices. I think it is not becoming on the part of the Government to make a dead set at me, making my riding almost an exceptional case in this House as to the extent of the alteration. However, under any circumstance I will face my opponent in my riding, and I have no doubt, notwithstanding that I have 118 votes to