

would give, as he said, a different complexion to those published. I am not going to weigh or analyse the papers published, with the view of saying whether that allegation is impossible or not of execution. I desire that the hon. member for Lincoln should have the opportunity of laying these papers on the Table, with all the comments and explanations he can give upon them. I desire, under the circumstances, that as he chose in part to reserve his defence—to give us some, but not as he says, all—he should not be placed in a worse position now than that if he had on that occasion given us all; but I do not perceive in that condition of affairs a cause for a reference to a committee. I perceive rather a reason for taking such a course as shall give the hon. gentleman the opportunity of presenting the remainder of his case on the floor of Parliament, and as shall thus leave us to dispose of this matter, with his case complete, according as the dignity and honor of this House and liberal justice to the hon. member for Lincoln require. The House will

observe that I have studiously avoided expressing or implying one single opinion with reference to the merits of the transaction. It is impossible, of course, to avoid forming in one's own mind impressions upon papers such as we have before us, but I believe it to be our duty to hold our minds open up to the latest possible moment. I believe it to be our duty to enquire whether there be, as the hon. the President of the Council suggested, any explanation, any door of escape, anything which may alter the complexion which, to some minds, these letters and papers bear, and in that view, keeping, as well as I might, an open mind, I have scrupulously abstained from making any argument or expressing any opinion here as to the conclusions which are to be drawn from the papers in our hands. I repeat, and I close by the suggestion, that we ought to make arrangements for this case being completed in the manner in which it was begun, by the hon. member on the floor, and that we should then proceed to give our judgment in the matter.

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