

tant subject's that was ever before the people. I answered as I best could in the position in which I was placed. I listened to the hon. member as he spoke, and although I was unable to agree with him in his opinions respecting one of my pet children, the Quebec scheme, I felt there was a cogency of argument, a reasonableness and solidity in the case as presented to the house, that could not but make a deep impression on the people of this country. The hon. member gave in detail every thought and feeling which he stated has weighed upon his own mind, and which had brought him to his conclusions. I am not his judge; I know not what may animate him; I am quite free to admit that a gentleman may profess one thing and may be influenced by considerations very different to those which he portrays to the house; I can easily suppose that possible after the exhibition we have had to day; but justice to the hon. member for Richmond compels me notwithstanding the strong antagonism that has existed between us, to say here solemnly and deliberately that if he was influenced by any consideration other than that he stated boldly to the House, it was without my knowledge. If he was looking to place—to a position in any delegation that might take place hereafter, he has not intimidated it to me. I do not know of it; I am free to assert that he has never exchanged a single word with me to that effect, nor has he down to the present hour. I feel after the manner in which that hon. gentleman has been assailed, it is due to this House that I should make this statement. But from whom does this charge of treason come? Who is the first man to suspect dishonesty in his fellow? The man who is himself dishonest! Who is capable of giving the fullest rein to the basest suspicions? The man whose own heart tells him that he could be tempted! Whoever there is in this House in a position to accuse any of his fellow men of being a traitor, it is not the hon. member for East Halifax. I tell him at this moment the public sentiment of this town, as well as of this House, is outraged by the traitorous declaration made by that hon. member in the open streets in the presence —

Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL.—Order, order.

Dr. TUPPER.—Was it a violation of the orders of this House when the hon. member rose here to day and insinuated that the hon. member for Richmond had been bribed?

Mr. ANNAND.—I never said on the floors of this House that an hon. member had been the subject of a base bribe.

Dr. TUPPER.—Nobody could put any other interpretation on the statement he made. I say if there is an hon. member in this House who is not in a position to charge any man with disloyalty, it is the hon. member. I tell him more; he is known to have reflected the opinions of other gentlemen—to be in close alliance with those who have occupied positions of public trust—who have recently returned from the United States; and the most intelligent minds in this country are deeply excited at the present moment by the fact that these persons have

openly declared that it is impossible for Great Britain to defend us. They feel that if they can indoctrinate the public mind with the sentiment that the safety of these Provinces lies in transferring their allegiance to the United States, the loyalty of our people will be paralyzed by despair. Is it for these men, for a Press which reflects their opinions, to accuse any hon. member of being a traitor? Sir the loyal spirit of my countrymen will repel such base and unmanly fears, and united with each other find a safe position for these Provinces under the aegis of the British Crown.

Mr. ANNAND.—After the lengthy reply of the hon. Provincial Secretary, in which he exhibited a good deal of temper unprovoked on my part, it will be necessary for me to make a few remarks. That hon. gentleman has referred to an organization in this city with traitorous intent.

Dr. TUPPER.—I said no such thing; I referred to traitorous language being used on the streets.

Mr. ANNAND.—Gentlemen, he said, of high position were endeavoring to weaken the allegiance of this people to the mother country. I ask the hon. member in view of the dangers that he says threatens the country—in the presence of the existing emergency when men of all parties, in all parts of the country are arming to resist the common foe, if it is right for him to come forward to make these rash statements. The people have become so exasperated at the idea of their privileges being swept away, that they are almost ready to come into conflict with those who would deprive them of their rights. Is this, then, the time to excite the people, when you require moderation and calmness? The hon. member says that the town has been excited by observations made on the street. In the first place, I did not believe that any hon. member, much less the hon. Provincial Secretary, could allow himself for a single moment to bring up street rumours to this house. But what are the facts? An old and esteemed friend of my own—who differs from me on this question—met me at the corner of the street, and a good deal excited uttered some very extravagant opinions—that the people should be coerced into Confederation; and I, in the spirit of our Herodias Herod uttered expressions that may be construed into disloyalty, but which passed away with the moment they were uttered. I say the expression was a hasty one—it was drawn forth by equally hasty expressions; and I may add I regret that it was ever made.

The hon. gentleman referred to the inconsistency of my position. He charged me with being a weather cock. I am prepared to say that in the presence of this great question my own views, like those of many others, have been considerably modified. The views that I entertain to day may be modified as those of the Provincial Secretary himself to-morrow, before any decision on his question is arrived at. But I challenge him, in the presence of his House and country, to read from any resolu-