

the breath of the Hon. President of the Council must have been exceedingly pestilential, for hon. gentlemen who had prepared themselves with speeches of two hours' duration, on standing up to deliver them, found themselves so weak in the knees that they were only able to stand for a few moments, and what they uttered was totally different from what they had prepared, and all in consequence of the breath of the Hon. President of the Council. (Laughter.) From the exceedingly detrimental character of that breath, I would strongly advise my hon. friends to keep at a safe distance, and not allow the Hon. President of the Council to come near them, for fear of a similar almost fatal result. (Hear, hear.)

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair until half-past seven.

After the recess,

Mr. CAMERON, continuing his remarks, said—When the House rose at six o'clock, I had remarked upon the singular effect the breath of the Hon. President of the Council had upon many hon. members of this House; and in connection with this matter, I would like now to observe that there seems to be a practice growing into favor, which, according to my judgment, is deserving of every condemnation. It is for hon. members of the Government to address themselves privately to particular members, and give them reasons for their action, which reasons are not made known generally to the hon. members of this House. Now, I understand that every honorable member on the floor of this House represents a portion of the people of the country, and the portion of the people which one represents is as much entitled to consideration and to information in possession of the Government as the rest of the people or the constituencies of every other hon. member of the House. If the Government gives to some that information which in certain cases it has not communicated to those hostile to certain measures, it places those hon. members in a false position, makes them act contrary to what they would, perhaps, if all the facts were in their possession, and is a proceeding that is opposed to the best interests of the country. (Hear, hear.) If reasons were privately given by a Minister to me which he withheld from other hon. members of the House, I would think he was endeavoring to deceive me; for, according to his oath of office, he is bound to preserve the

secrets of the Cabinet, and if he betrayed them to me, I would conclude that he had some sinister end in view, and was endeavoring to make me proceed in a course contrary to that which would be dictated by my honest convictions. (Hear, hear.) Now, in reference to the Hon. the President of the Council, I had hoped that when he had cried a truce and buried the party hatchet, brushed off his war paint and smoked the pipe of peace with his political enemies—(laughter)—we would have no more misrepresentations going to the country through the medium of the newspaper organ which he wields. I did not expect, therefore, to find that that organ would have devoted a whole column to a humble individual like myself, who happens to express views contrary to those now held by that hon. gentleman. That paper, in referring to the recent debate in this House on the Confederation resolutions, makes an attack on me, by representing that I have betrayed my constituents by acting, as it says, contrary to the pledges I gave them previous to my election. Now, I presume my constituents know what pledges I did make to them, and it is not necessary that any communications should be made through the channels of the *Globe* to let them know that I have betrayed those pledges, for they are as well able to judge as that paper whether I violated my promises or not. If any argument I used to justify the position I took in regard to that question was bad, it might have been pointed out; but it was quite unnecessary to tell them that I had broken my pledges, when they were as competent to judge upon that point as any one else. Yet that is what the organ of the hon. gentleman is doing, showing that the old party leavens the hon. gentleman still, and that all the elements of party discord and strife are just as rampant now in this House as they were before the present Coalition was formed. (Hear.) Now, the Hon. Attorney General West, in that amusing and interesting scene he had with the hon. member for Carleton the other day, made a declaration which, according to my sense of political morality, is not exactly one that should have been made by a Minister of the Crown holding the position of the hon. gentleman. He declared that it was the bounden duty of the members of his party to follow their leader in all things—not exercising their own judgment in reference to any matter that may come before the House, but sub-