

which has been quoted this evening, is published. We have in Nova Scotia a great many Orangemen. I know a great many, I have grown up among them, and I have yet to hear in Nova Scotia a word offensive said by any one in that country of any man simply because he happens to be an Orangeman. I have never heard anything of the kind. We respect the Orangemen and we respect the society to which they belong, but I will tell you what we do not respect. We do not respect any man who plays on his position. If a man cannot give himself prominence in this country except by parading his position, for that man the Yeomanry of Nova Scotia have no respect, and they cannot conceal the feelings contrary to respect which they hold regarding any individual of that character. I do not think that there is the slightest necessity for parading Orangeism in this House, or for men in this House trading on their position as Orange leaders. I cannot imagine anything more ridiculous than to see a gentleman standing in this House and declaring that he cannot get a hearing because he is standing up for Protestantism. Why, about 90 per cent of this House are Protestants largely representing the Protestant people. How ridiculous therefore it must appear to see a man stand up here and say he will not be given a hearing because he is championing the Protestant cause. Nothing can be more absurd. I am a Protestant myself, and largely represent a Protestant district, but at the same time I do not for one moment allow anybody to stand up in this House, without a protest, and say he is speaking for Protestantism. There is no necessity for his doing so. There is no offence to Protestantism ever committed in this House and nothing offensive said regarding it and no offence intended. The rights of Protestantism are here absolutely secured, and nobody need trail his coat along, to use an Irish expression, in order to see if any one will tramp on it and thus give him the opportunity of saying: I am the appointed leader of Protestantism and bound to defend it, and what is said to me is an insult to Protestants.

Mr. SPROULE. I would like to know who are the hon. gentlemen who are cheering this outburst. Are they the Protestant members of this House?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. I wish to say to the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. D. D. Mackenzie) that his lecture comes with a very bad grace from such a source. I have never posed in this House as representing any society or organization, nor have I endeavoured on any such ground to raise myself in the estimation of my fellow members of the House. But, during this session, since this discussion began, I have rarely risen to speak without having insults thrown at me across the floor. In view of

Mr. D. D. MACKENZIE.

the remarks that have been made, I can attribute these insults to nothing but to the fact that I am an Orangeman.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SPROULE. Why, the very name was mentioned over and over again. The colour has been spoken of. I have been referred to as an 'Orangiste,' and as parading my orangism, and my name has been frequently mentioned in connection with petitions sent in by members of that body. I read a quotation from the Halifax 'Chronicle' to which my attention had been drawn by Orangemen from the district of the hon. member (Mr. D. D. Mackenzie) who spoke just now, and which I recognized, and which other papers have commented on in the same sense. I say that paragraph was intended as a deliberate insult to the Orange Association. And the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. D. D. Mackenzie) has many Orangemen in his constituency who supported him and have written me that they supported him, but, who, I say, will resent such insults, as will Orangemen in other portions of the country. Though I have never posed as an Orangeman, I have received scant courtesy at the hands of hon. gentlemen opposite from whom I was entitled to the consideration due to a member of this House, because I have always extended that consideration to others. I have been here for twenty-seven years, and I have always treated every hon. member of this House with due respect. If when a member was speaking I desired to ask a question, I have always asked permission to do so. But often when I have risen to ask leave in this way, a howl has gone up from the other side, as though I were not entitled to respectful hearing which should be given to every member of this House. Why was this? I can attribute it to no other cause than the fact that I belonged to the Orange Association and for that reason was thought by some hon. gentleman to be unworthy the courtesy which should be observed between members of this House. It may be thought by some that I might reasonably expect that treatment from Roman Catholics, though I claim that, having treated them with due respect, I had a right to expect similar treatment in return. But I regret that even where I have been denied by members of that faith the courtesy that was due me as a member of this House, they were backed up by Protestants who ought to have had more respect for themselves and for the country to which they belong.

Mr. TAYLOR. I never took much stock in any member of this House who would make a statement here or on the platform that he himself knew to be untrue. Now, my hon. friend from North Cape Breton (Mr. D. D. McKenzie) stated that the Protestants were represented in this House by