

tleman had on other occasions gone out of his way to attack him. He had been often amused at the manner in which the hon. member was in the habit of approaching the discussion of questions in the House. He (Mr. M.) had now been in the Legislature for two years, and previously had been frequently in the galleries, and he had yet to learn, from personal devotion or otherwise, that that hon. gentleman had distinguished himself for industry or ability in connection with the public business. Yet you saw this gentleman, when a question came up in which his feelings were enlisted, getting up and addressing the House with a patronizing air, and in that peculiar *dilettanti* style in which he delighted. He could tell that hon. gentleman it would have been more to his credit, and those with whom he apparently sympathized in the remarks he had just made, if he had endeavoured, instead of bringing the matter publicly before the House, to screen the conduct of those who misbehaved themselves on that occasion. When that hon. gentleman stated that he had been hissed in Temperance Hall, he mentioned a fact of which he was prouder than anything else in his public life. He had never stood, and he never expected hereafter to stand in a prouder—a position more in sympathy with the feelings of the people—than when in response to to a very small portion of the audience in Temperance Hall, who attempted to interfere with freedom of speech, he told them their disgraceful proceedings would go to the country—that their attempt to stifle discussion would rebound upon themselves, and that the little band with which he was associated would teach the contemptible little mob that disturbed the deliberations of that meeting that they were not the people of Nova Scotia. Well they had taught these worthies in the city that they could not stifle public discussion. The sentiments uttered that night even by one so humble as himself had reverberated in the valleys, and along the hill sides, and found its echo in the Legislature of this country. That pledge at least had been “nobly redeemed.” Who were those that hissed him for the utterance of these sentiments on that occasion? Not the respectable citizens of Halifax? No, he scouted the idea—he knew from personal communication with a large number of the citizens of Halifax that they condemned such conduct. Those who hissed him were a few government hirelings—a few *claqueurs* gathered from the street corners and bar-rooms—whose hostility he had the good fortune to have gained—men who would bring down every young man who endeavoured, by fair exertion, to satisfy a laudable ambition in this country. He was always willing to have the opposition of that crowd. But it was not for the hon. member for Halifax to taunt him in connexion with the subject of Confederation. If that hon. gentleman had occupied the same position he (Mr. M.) assumed he would have been more justified in the arrogance of the tone he had adopted. Where was that hon. gentleman when that question was admitted to the people of this country? Did he step to the front like others and declare his views—did he take the manly position of his hon. col-

league (Mr. Tobin)?—and determine if he must go down on the question, to fall like a man? No; during every demonstration that had taken place in Halifax you could not see the hon. gentleman face on the platform, and if you saw him at all it was in some obscure corner under the galleries watching the current of popular sympathy, in order to take advantage of it. This was the gentleman that came in at the eleventh hour when he thought his constituents had been won to the cause by the labour of others, and to show his zeal justified the disgraceful conduct of the rabble at Temperance Hall. He did not envy the hon. gentleman's position, and the people would appreciate it. But he would tell the hon. member that he was not the man to taunt one, after skulking as he had at the proper time from his legitimate duty. He now came in when he imagined he could do so without personal danger, reminding them of one of those creatures that follow in the rear of armies to pick up prey that others win for them.

He was not at all superized at the style in which the Provincial Secretary had referred to him. It was what he expected from the hon. gentleman. Since he had been in public life, he had the fortune of receiving these attentions more frequently than others. He had got more knocks than anything else, and which he always liked if possible to return, altho he was becoming indifferent to them by this time. They did him little harm and perhaps some good. But he was quite prepared for the remarks of the hon. Prov. Secy—intended as they were for an unworthy purpose. He understood the policy of that hon. gentlemen as well as of others by whom he was surrounded. His object in this instance was to injure him in the estimation of the vast majority of the citizens with whom he was proud to say he stood on terms of which he need never be ashamed. He had never, since he had the honour of a seat in the House, opened his mouth unfairly hostile towards the city of Halifax. On the contrary, he could appeal to gentlemen all around if he had not, on every occasion, when the interests of Halifax were not at conflict with the legitimate interests of these he represented, endeavoured to retain their rights, and promote their wishes. He had been a member of the Committee on City Bills, for two years, and need hardly say he did his best to advance the business before it, and guard the interests of the city. He knew that his exertions were fully appreciated. There was another portion of the remarks of the hon. Provincial Secretary, that deserved some observation. He was astonished at the powers of the face with which that hon. gentleman would stand up before the people's representatives, and, knowing as he must the feelings of the country, state that a vast majority of the people were not opposed to Confederation. He did know whether to admire or condemn the indifference to public sentiment which that hon. gentleman exhibited. He could not imagine anything more dangerous to public liberty, than to have a man occupying the position he did, prepared so to outrage the public sentiment of the country, and use the influence,