

wrote a letter to a friend, a copy of which he read as part of his speech:

"I have this day in Fredericton was given to a number of the ablest and most distinguished men of the Province. They were not more than two hundred and fifty men in the Temperance Hall to listen to Mr. Fisher's speech. Surrounded as he was by a packed audience, for very few of Mr. Pickett's friends were present, he was very bold and very loyal, if his own assertions are proof of either. I could not have believed that Mr. Fisher would have indulged in so much self-glorification, and personal abuse of others. John Pickett, he said, was a good fellow, and had always supported him until the last election, and he (Mr. Fisher) was sorry he had got into such bad company now. (Mr. Pickett is a young man, but rather too old to be caught by the hollow-heard compliments of Charles Fisher.) He would still continue to be a good fellow, in Mr. Fisher's opinion, was he to spend his money for him, and adopt all his opinions. But Mr. Pickett is a man who thinks for himself, and is known, both by his opponents and supporters, to be an honorable man; and Mr. Pickett knows, also, that these professional politicians are dangerous men, seeking, generally, to elevate themselves at the expense of the public, and in too many instances, at the sacrifice of truth and honor. Mr. Fisher stated that he had been urged by requisitions from all parts of the country to come forward at this election—the people stating, in their letters, that they had been deceived at the last election, and that they now wanted a chance to reverse what they had done; and they had now shewn most nobly that they were in favor of British institutions and of a great British North American nationality. He repeatedly stated that this election was fought upon the question of Confederation. That, and that alone, was the issue. (If there were any anti-Confederates present, who had voted for him, they must have felt exceedingly annoyed for having been thus shamefully deceived, and must have most heartily despised the men who could practice such deception, and it will no doubt be remembered by many, should he again appear before them.) He read from the *Freeman* what he called Anglin the Dictator's challenge to the noble men of York, which they had accepted, and the result would speak for itself. He had beaten them by a majority of seven hundred, notwithstanding their six hundred (meaning the Catholics) many of the best of whom, he said, had voted for him. He accepted the challenge much as a coward would, who, sheltering himself behind some fortification, would shoot his adversary, and then come forward to boast of his pluck and manliness. He repeatedly called Anglin a traitor, said over and over again that there was not a drop of British blood in his veins, and, as an offset, said that the blood which coursed through his veins had descended from the true old *Loyalists*. These sentiments, which were several times repeated, invariably called forth hearty cheers. He was very severe on the Government; said they got into power by practising lies and deception, but that the voice from York had sounded their speedy downfall. (It occurred to me that he knew full well that when the members of the present Government were elected, Mr. Tilley and his colleagues were then in power, they appealed to the people—the dear people in whom Mr.

Fisher has such an abiding confidence, and the electors throughout the Province returned the men who compose the present Government to represent them.) He said, Mr. Fisher several times said that Anglin the traitor was the leading genius of the Government; that he held them in the hollow of his hand, and could rule them as he pleased. But he was most surprised that men like R. D. Wilnot and W. H. Odell could be influenced to sign a document, so full of disloyalty to the Queen and British Government, as that Memorandum of Council, signed by seven of the Council and sent to Mr. Cardwell. It had been written by Anglin, the traitor, over night, and signed by the rest after dinner. These declarations seemed to please the most part of the audience very much. It could hardly have occurred to them that Mr. Fisher could not possibly know who wrote it, or when it was signed. Had they thought of this, they would have agreed with me that he was a most unscrupulous man for making such a declaration.

He talked a great deal of nonsense about Fleming's Report, and the Inter-Colonial Road, which was soon to traverse the whole length of the County of York and the Province. It occurred to me, while listening to him, that it would be rather unfortunate for some politicians should that Road be built, as it could not be so conveniently used for different local canvasses as it could now. The report is remarkable for accommodating a great number of politicians, who can place the Road just where it will secure the most votes. He strutted with great dignity upon the platform, and completely stuffed the audience with his lip loyalty, all of which was loudly cheered. He would occasionally give the men of York credit for some loyalty, but reserved much the largest share for himself. His audience did not appear to discover the emptiness of such an exhibition. He was very personal in referring to the Representatives of York, and referred to some of them in a very insulting manner. He hinted something in reference to Judge Allen's going on the bench, which I could not understand; he said the business of York had been neglected by them, and about the time the House closed, Allan, Fraser and Hatheway were engaged in figuring how to sustain a miserable Government, while Billy Needham was drunk, and very boastingly, and I think foolishly, said that he had more stake in the country than the three of them put together, he had not much money, and could not, therefore, spend much in elections. And as to their morality, look at George L. Hatheway and W. H. Needham. Lord help the country if they were the standard; men who had not the least regard for the sacred and holy ties of matrimony, notoriously unfaithful to every obligation of that kind; then he went into a great deal of headle about marriage ties, sacredness of home, regard for religion and virtue, and recommended his devoted friends to go home peaceably and return to their workshop and their counting-house, and that at the general election, which would come soon, he with three others, who he would not name, would carry York with an increased majority.

It was quite apparent in a large part of his speech that he had endeavored to excite their pre-judices, which every true and good man should seek to allay. He said, in conclusion, with truth have said, I

have endeavored to deceive the people in reference to the matter of Confederation, both in my card and my speech on Nomination Day. I treated that matter as ingeniously, that in the event of a defeat, I could have said that Confederation was not the question, but should I be elected, I can claim it a great victory for Confederation. I have been informed that the question was put to Mr. Fisher by some anti-Confederate: "Is this to be a test of Confederation?" and he answered them it is NOT! With that declaration they voted for him. He could say, I have attempted to make the electors of York believe that the men in power intended to remove the Seat of Government, and in other ways do great injustice to York County. I know that I have not the least foundation for this in truth, but it answered my purpose for the time being, and I did it. I know that there has been no effort made to remove the Seat of Government since 1858, when I was a member of the Government with Smith, Tilley, Waters, Brown, Johnson and Steves, all of whom were favorable to the removal. Knowing this, I remained in the Government with them UNTIL THEY PUT ME OUT. I know also that there are three members of the present Government at the head of three important public departments, with twenty-four hundred dollars a year each, that these gentlemen all reside in York County, having their business, their property, and their interest there, and I know full well that the Government would not under those circumstances, even if they wished, attempt a removal of the Seat of Government. Yes, I know this well; but I was untruthful enough to state to the electors of York that there was great danger, and that it was necessary that I should be returned in order to prevent it. I know very well that nearly every official in the Provincial Offices in Fredericton are filled by the inhabitants of York County. I know that they are all paid from the public Treasury, and that persons in other parts of the Province are just as much entitled to them as the men of York. Yet I endeavored to make the people believe that the Government was disposed to do injustice to her. I know that the thirty thousand dollars appropriated for Millia purposes, was expended in York, which was a great benefit to the people here. I know that others had to contribute this money, and that we got the benefit of its expenditure; yet I tried to make the people believe that the Government was hostile to her interests. I have charged the members of the Government with being tools in the hands of T. W. Anglin, and that they were all a disloyal set together, when I know that Anglin had no more influence than the other members, as is shewn by the difference of opinion on Western Extension; yet it answered my dishonest purpose to say that they were all dictated to by him. I said that Anglin wrote the famous Memorandum of Council over night, and that it was signed by six of his colleagues after dinner, when I knew nothing about who wrote it. I have said repeatedly that the Memorandum was full of disloyalty to the Queen and British Government; yet I did not attempt to point out the paragraphs that contained disloyal sentiments. I know that the whole document is strictly in accordance with the principles of Responsible Government, and claims only the rights which are due to us under the Constitution. I know that I opposed Downing Street