

but if they could only see something filthy and decayed they were sure to stick their bill into it. And such was the character of the miserable band who had so industriously endeavored to poison the public mind by base and dishonest means, and some men who hold their heads high, and present a friendly appearance, had encouraged it; but "a man may smile, and smile, and be a villain." He had borne their personal abuse and slander for twelve months, and was now going to free his mind, and as he cared little personally for political distinction, he should speak without reserve his honest conviction, let it cut where it would.

Their political opponents, with some honorable exceptions, had pretended to look upon the Government with contempt. This was a quality seldom seen in a gentleman, it was most prominent in the lower order of men. Gentlemen, although superior in education and in position, seldom looked with contempt upon those who, in reality, were their inferiors; but there was a class of men who became intoxicated with their own supposed greatness and superiority, having excessive vanity, who in order to gratify a low principle, treated with contempt men who were quite their equals, this quality increased as you descended in the scale of manhood, and was very prominent in the negro character, and he had been informed that in the South the slaves looked upon and treated with contempt not only those of their own class who might not be just equal with them in the social scale, but even the white men who were free and in every respect their superiors. And in animals it is the same. Writers who had studied their habits said that the lion and the horse were never known to have been influenced by any such disposition, while the ass and the meeker beasts were strongly influenced by that principle. He had been amused to see with what contempt some of the very meanest specimens of humanity pretended to look upon the present Government. A great many of the public officials, from the judge upon the bench down to the humblest employe upon the railroad, had been opposed to the Government, and with some honorable exceptions, they had been industriously endeavoring to defeat them. It had not been the policy of the Government to remove from office their opponents and replace them with their friends, but acts of kindness and forbearance in too many cases had been met with base ingratitude.

Personally he had, since his first entrance into public life, been opposed to removals, except where the public interests require it. He had never been disposed to use any brief authority or power which might have been entrusted to him in any unkind or ungenerous way, and for pursuing that course he had suffered to some extent with the extreme men of the Liberal party, and now, he believed, that he was likely to suffer from the extreme men of the Conservative party, but so far he had had courage enough in that respect to do what he thought was right, but there was a point beyond which forbearance ceased to be a virtue.

Having now dwelt long enough upon general matters, he would allude to a few of the charges which had been urged against this Government; and as all of them had been so ably answered by speakers who had preceded him, it was

not necessary that he should dwell long upon any of them.

Mr. Fisher charged the Government with having called the House together on the 8th of March instead of the 14th of February. This House was prorogued on the 8th day of June last, and was called together on the 8th of March, covering a recess of only nine months, when formerly twelve months was the time between the sessions; and what interest had suffered in consequence of this delay of three weeks from the usual time? He knew of none. Had any constituency or any hon. member been put to inconvenience in consequence of it? He knew of none. Perhaps his hon. friend, Mr. Fisher, fancied the session might be a few days shorter in consequence of it, or that some of the large stock of poultry he had said in might not keep during the long days of March. The charge was unworthy of any further notice, he was satisfied the House and the country would so view it.

The next charge preferred by Mr. Fisher was, that an Auditor General had not been appointed, and that he was satisfied there were thousands of accounts in that office not checked at this day. Now he was sure that the duties of that office had never, since its first formation, been better and more efficiently done than they had been the last year, and he denied the assertion that such a number of accounts remained in that office unchecked. The last quarter, or rather the first quarter of the fiscal year 1866, might not be yet entirely checked, because after the close of the fiscal year, a good deal of time was required to prepare the report for the Legislature, and then as there were only two persons in the office a few accounts may not be examined immediately on their receipt, but as soon as the report was completed, Mr. Johnson at once attended to that duty; but he (Hon. Mr. Gilmer) would inform the hon. member for York, Mr. Fisher, if there were any accounts in the Audit Office unchecked, when they were neglected. It was when there was an Auditor General and three clerks in that office, at an expense of six or seven hundred pounds more than it was now, and when Mr. Fisher was in the Government also, that was the time, and not since the office of Auditor General had been vacant, that the public interests had been neglected, and this he thought could be fully substantiated. There was no fear of the public interest suffering in that department when Mr. Johnson had charge; he was a most efficient and faithful official.

Up to 1854 there had been only a partial audit of the public accounts. At that time the political necessities of Mr. Fisher and his friends, together with the consideration for an old public servant, caused the Government to appoint Mr. Partelow, and he remembered that his hon. colleague (Col. Boyd) and himself agreed at the time that £100 per annum was sufficient salary for that official. But it was also very convenient to have a financier so competent to give information and advice convenient to the Government; but it was well known that for four years before his death he was entirely unfit to discharge the duties of the office, and that the whole duties devolved on Mr. Johnson. Mr. Fisher told them that the Constitution had been violated in not filling up the office. Why did not the late Government fill it up? Three or four months elapsed between the death of Mr.

Partelow and their resignation. The reason was, that so many of them wanted it that they could not agree, and they could not wait to fill it until after the election. He thought, if they could not agree to give it to one of their own number, there was more than one gentleman who had given them a generous support for ten years, who would have accepted it and would have discharged its duties well. He would not charge them with having violated the Constitution in not filling it up, but he thought they were unmindful of their old friends. Gratitude in old politicians was a rare commodity. He thought the Opposition would fail to convince either a majority of the House or the public that the Government deserved censure for not appointing an Auditor General, when they knew and understood that the duties of that Department had been done as well, certainly, and some persons thought better, than they ever were before, and at an expense some \$2000 less than formerly. Mr. Fisher said the Minute of Council was an insult to the Queen. He did not so understand it, and he was sure it was not so intended, and he was not afraid to flow an intelligent public to pronounce upon it. He thought there could not in the history of New Brunswick, be found a memorandum of Council, in answer to any dispatch from the British Government, that was more respectful, and at the same time more determined to maintain the rights which belonged to them under the Constitution. His hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) thought it a great offence to lag to differ from the Colonial Secretary in a matter which affected our best interests; but he did not think it any offence to the Queen's representative to call his advisers "chimble riggers," traitors, hypocrites, &c. Such language to men on this side the water was considered by him quite right, but to dare to differ from Mr. Cardwell, in the most respectful manner, was a crime of the deepest dye. Such arrogant nonsense was unworthy the least consideration. He was proud of that dispatch.

Another charge was, that the Government had not made proper provision for the defence of the country; that the money which was to be expended during the summer for militia purposes, should have been expended on the frontier before now. What would the hon. member have said if the Government had expended \$30,000 to \$40,000 up to the present time for militia purposes. Had they done so, he thought they would justly have deserved censure, for, until very recently, the Government was not aware of any danger that would have justified such an expenditure; and he was sure the people of the frontier Counties, who were most exposed, had not yet been so much alarmed that they would have justified the large expenditure that would have done no good. He charged the Government with vacillation and hypocrisy, and with having pursued a sinister course. If there was a man in the world who deserved to be styled a crooked disciple, it was Mr. Fisher. Politically, he was known as a dodger. There appeared to be a constitutional predisposition to do everything by a sort of side-winded round-about way. He was really the best illustration of the Irishman's gun, that would shoot round a corner, that he had ever seen. He listened to a part of his speech on declaration day in York, that such frequent reference had been made to during this Session. At that time he