

when he was in the ranks of the Opposition ; but how much more culpable was it not in the *Rouges* to support him at that very time? The members of the Opposition reproach us to-day with supporting the Hon. President of the Council, and blame us for things we have not done. We blamed the Hon. President of the Council for attacking our clergy and insulting what we respect most. We opposed him with all our strength, but at that very time the Opposition supported him, and approved of everything he said. The people know that perfectly well ; they know and appreciate thoroughly the difference between our motives and yours, in opposing the hon. member for South Oxford, and you cannot deceive them. The people will say to you,—“ Give us a proof of what you can do ; and if you are better than these you attack, we will accept your leadership.” What crime are we charged with to-day by the Opposition ? After numberless fierce struggles, and two general elections, it had become impossible for any party to govern the country. The people were weary of the whole thing, and wished for a change. It was then that a coalition took place between the two parties who formed the majority in either section of the province. The Opposition should not condemn that alliance ; on the contrary, they ought to continue to give their support to the honorable member for South Oxford (Hon. Mr. BROWN), since he has formed an alliance with the Hon. Attorney General for Lower Canada, in order to find some means of carrying on the Government, and of removing the difficulties by which we are surrounded. It has been stated that the delegates to the Quebec Conference were not empowered to prepare a scheme such as that now before us ; but can it be said that the Government had not the right to do so ? The Ministry have prepared a scheme which they now submit to us, and the question is not as to whether they were or were not empowered to prepare it, but whether the scheme is a good one, whether it is deserving of the approval of the people, and for the best interests of the province. This it is for us to say, and it is all we have to say ; but it is not right to accuse hon. Ministers, who have endeavored to discharge their duty and to relieve the country from its difficulties—it is not right to reproach them, after they have labored day and night at their task, and to tell them they had no right to do what they have done. We had a right to expect a serious discussion of the Government scheme ;

but no, we have had nothing of the kind ; we have had nothing but personal attacks, appeals to prejudice, and underhand attempts out of doors against the scheme. We have had a crop of suppositions and insinuations against this man and that man. It is “supposed” that the Honorable Attorney General for Lower Canada desires to become a governor ; another is accused of desiring to be made a judge of a Federal court, and every hon. member of this House favorable to the Government scheme is accused of aiming at making money, obtaining a place or honors, by betraying and selling the cause of the people. This is certainly most unjust, and every one of these suppositions is utterly unwarranted. Those who indulge in them have not a shadow of proof to bring forward in support of their assertions, and they would, therefore, be much better employed in a calm and deliberate discussion of the measure itself. (Hear, hear.) Other hon. members, with a view of opposing the Government scheme and depreciating it in the opinion of the people, have made use of the name of an honored citizen, now living in the retirement of private life. The honorable member for Bagot (Hon. Mr. LAFRAMBOISE) told us that Mr. C. S. CHERRIER, of Montreal, was strongly opposed to the scheme of Confederation, and that his opinion should have great weight, because he is a “devout” man. Now, I should like to know, Mr. SPEAKER, what connection there can possibly exist between religious devotion and a discussion such as this ? I was really sorry to hear such language fall from the honorable member for Bagot, for he is not in the habit of making use of arguments of that kind. It is utterly astounding to see the party who wanted to shut up the priests in their vestries, and deny them the right to hold any political opinions, using Mr. CHERRIER’s devotion as a weapon wherewith to combat Confederation. (Hear, hear.) But what is the origin of the great agitation promoted by the hon. member for Hochelaga (Hon. Mr. DORION), since the alliance of the Conservative party with the Hon. President of the Council ? Has he forgotten that he himself carried out implicitly the behests of that hon. gentleman all the time they worked together ? And if not, how can he possibly make it a crime in others to work with him ? Was he not aware that his own Government—the Government of the hon. member for Cornwall (Hon. J. S. MACDONALD)—existed only at his will ; that the