

Mr. WOOD.—What you stated there was entirely wrong.

Mr. FERGUSON said the hon. gentleman need not be so uneasy about it. No doubt he regretted now the course he had taken.

Mr. RYKERT (*sotto voce*)—Rub it into him.

Mr. FERGUSON proceeded to say that when Mr. Wood made this denial in the House of Commons, he felt it his duty to prove his statement. Mr. Wood had declared that it was a lie. He (Mr. F.) had been told by the member for East Toronto that he had a document which would show that a correspondence had taken place between the late Premier and Mr. Wood.

Mr. WOOD—The member for East Toronto never told the hon. gentleman so. He never told the hon. gentleman that while I was a member of the Government that paper there passed from Mr. Blake to myself. There is the hon. member for East Toronto, let him vindicate himself or stand convicted.

Mr. FERGUSON advised the hon. gentleman to keep quiet.

Mr. RYKERT (*sotto voce*)—Roast him alive.

Mr. FERGUSON went on to say that he was in this House when the member for East Toronto stated that he had written proof of the iniquity of the member for South Brant, as to a note having passed to him from Mr. Blake. When Mr. Cameron made that statement he went over to him and said to him—"Mr. Cameron, have you any written evidence of that assertion?" He replied, "I have." He said he got it from Mr. Wood's seat. He (Mr. F.) did not know how he got it. He never saw the document till the subject was brought up in the House of Commons, and he took the liberty of asserting there that those words had passed from Mr. Blake to Mr. Wood.

Mr. WOOD—When? That is the point.

Mr. FERGUSON—Never mind when. He knew that the member for East Toronto had this document.

Mr. WOOD—The hon. gentleman does not want to be misunderstood. His charge was that while I was a member of the Government I received that communication from Mr. Blake.

Mr. FERGUSON went on to say that when he made the statement in the House of Commons, the member for South Brant took the liberty of declaring that it was a lie.

Mr. WOOD—So it was, and he knows it.

Mr. FERGUSON—He not only said it was a lie, but that it was a damned lie. (Order, order.) When he found that it was denied, he went to Mr. Carling and asked him to write to Mr. Cameron for this document. Mr. Carling did so, and subsequently handed this note to him, which showed that his statement was not a lie but the truth. It showed that he received this letter on a certain Monday, and that he resigned on a Friday.

Mr. WOOD—Yes.

Mr. FERGUSON said the hon. gentleman should go farther, and confess that on the very Friday he resigned he was in correspondence with Mr. Blake. He got a private letter sent him by a messenger to his own office. He need not deny that. It mattered not when the document was picked up; it proved him guilty. He could only assure the House that the story of his having picked this note out of a spittoon was all a fabrication. If he had picked it up he held that he would have been justified, because it showed that there was a gentleman in the Cabinet who was a traitor to his leader and a traitor to his country. He was sorry that the member for South Grey had been severe upon him. For his part he pitied him from his heart, and he believed that if his heart was laid bare it would be found that he was the most wretched man out of purgatory and that if there was a hell upon earth he was suffering it. (Laughter.)

Mr. PRINCE wondered if it was in order in a Committee of the House to rise to a question of order. A short time ago he had been told that on a motion for the Speaker to leave the chair to go into Committee of Supply, they might discuss the domestic policy of Kamschatka. He had no doubt that the policy of Kamschatka had as much connection with the subject before the House as had the question that was being discussed. Was it really in order to make this personal attack, which was not characterized by leniency at all events, and which was in connection with a matter so very far from the question before the House.

Mr. FERGUSON said that in justification of himself he had made this explanation.

He pitied the honourable member for South Brant from his very heart. He believed he was just as wretched on account of his betrayal of his leader as was Judas of old when he gave the kiss and betrayed his Master.

Mr. WOOD said it was unfortunate that some members of this House had thought fit to bring up this matter again. He should not refer to it at all were it not that some members were not familiar with the facts. He should be very sorry ever to be in a position in which he would need commendation or a plea for fair play from the hon. member for South Simcoe. If he ever should be placed in that position he certainly should tremble for his reputation. He would not pretend to answer the attack which had been made upon him in the coarse, low style that seemed so congenial to that gentleman. (Hear, hear.) He would simply make a statement of the facts. This note which had again been brought up to-day he had entirely forgotten, until in conversation with the member for Niagara some-time after the defeat of the late Government it occurred to him that the charge that Mr. Blake had been writing to him referred to this note. On the Monday following his resignation he saw Mr. Blake in the lobby. He had gone home after his resignation and had just returned and heard that certain rumours were afloat as to his conduct, and he told Mr. Blake that he would take occasion during the day to speak in reference to these reports. Subsequently he saw Mr. Sandfield Macdonald—who, he might say, notwithstanding all that had been said, he did not believe entertained an unkind thought towards him. He told him that he was going to speak, and Mr. Macdonald asked him not to do so, that of course he knew the Government was gone, and recommended him not to speak. He therefore said he would not say a word, and he said nothing. He was sitting on one of the back seats, and in the course of the evening, when there was a lull in the debate, one of the pages handed him a slip of paper. He opened it and found on it those memorable words which afforded such exceeding consolation to the member for Simcoe, which he had no doubt had been lithographed and framed by all the leaders of the Conservative party and hung up as an ornament in their houses—*an heirloom to be handed down to their children's children to the third and fourth generation.* (Laughter.) They had taken the trouble to lithograph it, so that each member of the party might have a copy; and perhaps the member for Simcoe, being a shining light in the great spittoon party, had been entrusted with the keeping of the original document. (Laughter.) How that might be he did not know, but it was one of those exceeding rare treasures that no doubt would form one of the permanent documents of the great party of which he supposed the hon. member had not hesitated to pronounce himself the leader, namely, the great spittoon and water-closet spoliation party. What he (Mr. W.) did with this paper he did not know. He believed he tore it in two pieces and threw it on the floor. That was the whole foundation for the charge of the hon. gentleman. Persons might infer from that just precisely what they chose. But what the hon. gentleman charged was that while he was a member of the Government, and sitting upon the Treasury benches, he received a note from Mr. Blake, telling him that was the proper time to rise and make his resignation. That was the charge. If that were not the charge, there was no pertinence in it. He gave that an emphatic and strong denial, and if there had been words in the English language stronger than the words he used he would have used them and stamped the person making that charge with that infamy he deserved. (Loud cheers.) That gentleman's hairs would be white with the snow of 80 winters before that stain would be wiped out of his character. Those who knew him (Mr. Wood) for many years would know whether or not *a priori* he could be guilty of such a charge. The hon. member had nevertheless so far forgotten his honour as a man as to repeat the charge to-night. The hon. gentleman said he did not pick up this paper and paste it together; but the receiver was as bad as the thief. (Cheers.) As to this matter of private letters, if they and private conversations were to be disclosed, then all intercourse between hon. gentlemen would be at an end. He had often been tempted to make allusions to private matters, but he had never done so. He adverted to the conduct of Sir John A. Macdonald in disclosing the contents of private letters from Mr. Scott. He had been charged by the member for Lincoln with accepting a brief from both parties, and at one time supporting and at another time opposing the Government. Did the hon. gentleman suppose that he must either support all the acts of the Government or oppose all their acts? He would not