

money. I paid the interest on it for two years, and I promised to pay it in 1863, because I felt, as every honourable man must feel who has anything to do with a transaction of that kind, which results unfortunately, that he is at all events morally bound to restore the money to those who gave it. I promised to pay it in 1863, but financial difficulties overtook me, and I was unable to do so; but I for one, feel bound to see those who contributed that money for the purpose of a commercial transaction recouped, and if Mr. King is not able to do it, I, if it be 30 years hence, will endeavour, if possible, to restore it. I am happy, however, to say that Mr. King has been able to make a very large payment. If he had only made his difficulties known he has friends enough in the States, Canada, and Britain who would have gladly come to his rescue and relieved him of every farthing of the debt. He has now been able to send \$5,000 to relieve any of those men who say that the money was given as a loan, and he has agreed to pay the whole of it off within one year. He has been wounded in a most cruel and barbarous manner. Another word in reference to myself I have never before condescended to reply to a newspaper slander, but I may now state a fact which I believe will prove me faultless. It is well known that when I was in Opposition to Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's Government, although we were politically opposed to each other, we were personally the warmest friends. I believe, even across this room, we never passed a single hard or improper word to each other, but were on the most friendly and intimate terms. I had served with him and under him, and having once acted with a man I always feel for him a degree of respect that I never lose unless he does me a grave and serious injury. I believe no man who knew Sandfield Macdonald will say that he was a man who would associate himself with scoundrels and rogues. Now, Mr. Macdonald held in his possession all the papers that have since been published in the *Mail*. He had the fullest opportunity of knowing exactly what was my connection with the Elgin Association; and surely if I were the scoundrel that I am represented to be he would not have treated me as I shall now speak of. In the summer of 1871 he made overtures to me to join his Government, to become the associate and colleague of the gentlemen who now ask me for explanations. There are gentlemen in this city politically opposed to me who are able to bear testimony to this. I, however, declined. I told him that I had a clear record for the last sixteen years that I had stood by my party, and that I would not for any consideration now destroy myself and it. I told him what was true—that I had sacrificed time and money, that I was in need of money, but that I had something I prized more highly—my own reputation and honesty—and I declined joining the Administration. Now, knowing as well as I did the relation in which I stood to the Association, does this show that he believed me the man I am now represented to be? Now I am done. During my public life of sixteen years I have been assailed in every form, but I have hitherto disdained to reply to a single attack made upon me through the press, I have left that to my own character, and to the press which advocates the cause I have now supported for many years, and nobly have they defended me on every occasion. I have never been out of the House of Parliament for the last fourteen years, although my opponents have used the most energetic, and, on some occasions, the most unfair means to defeat me; and I do not fear to again meet my constituents. With a clear conscience, I challenge my opponents to meet me in any constituency in the Province. Now I have done. I must apologise to the House for the time I have occupied. I hope I shall never have occasion to again stand up and defend myself in a matter of this sort. In making this explanation I have considered it more dignified to myself and more respectful to the House that I should not touch upon the private reasons that induced this attack, and the private character of my assailants, although I have the particulars and proof in my own hands. (Applause)

Mr. RYKERT denied that he had ever made the charges against the hon. Commissioner of Public Works, but as they had been made he thought the proper way to have dealt with them would have been to have had them investigated before a Committee of the House at the earliest possible moment. He (Mr. Rykert) was not prepared to gainsay the observation made by the hon. gentleman, that Mr. Macdonald had made him an offer to join his Cabinet, but he thought that if the hon. gentleman had received such an offer he should have stood up in his place in the House at the time, and given his reasons for

not accepting it, instead of waiting until after the honoured statesman had passed away. He (Mr. Rykert) had never heard any reason for any person refusing to join the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald's Cabinet, either on account of his political or moral character; on the contrary, he thought that any man might have thought himself honoured to be in office under the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald. The hon. gentleman himself once supported the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald. The speaker went on to say, with reference to the charges under discussion, that there were some very extraordinary discrepancies between the statements made by the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works and the statements made by the Rev. Mr. King in his letter. He (Mr. Rykert) was prepared to say that the affairs of the Buxton settlement were not properly conducted. It seemed a most extraordinary thing that, after so many years, the affairs should be wound up, and the Association be found almost in debt. Things had come to his (Mr. Rykert's) knowledge, which convinced him that the Rev. Mr. King had grossly mismanaged the affairs of the Association. He had been searching the records of the Registry Office in Chatham and had there found that the Rev. Mr. King had had a lot belonging to the Association—lot No. 9, in the 10th concession—transferred to him in 1854 for the sum of \$250, and the same day mortgaged it for \$1,000. This was only one of similar instances that he could point to.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR—Surely that land was not sold to him by the Association. Was it that sold it?

Mr. RYKERT said he could not say who sold it. (Laughter.) He had made the charge, and he was prepared to substantiate it. The speaker went on to say that in his letter the Rev. Mr. King stated that \$16,000 had been subscribed, and only ten per cent. of that amount paid up, and yet the rev. gentleman said the amount paid up was \$2,000. They found that a certain gentleman who was said to be an emigration agent from this Province at a salary of \$150 a month, and who received besides, a large amount of pay for halls, was then employed in getting up the private affairs of the Commissioner of Public Works in England. He (Mr. Rykert) did not think the country would be satisfied with that. They found, from the hon. gentleman's own organ, that a meeting was held in Edinburgh in the month of May, 1869, at which £3,000 sterling was raised for the Buxton mission aid, and at which "Archibald McKellar, Esq.," spoke on behalf of the objects of the Association. The charges against the honourable gentleman amounted to this:—that he was connected with the Association, that he handled the funds of that Association, and that those funds had been misappropriated by some one. He (Mr. Rykert) should be heartily rejoiced if the hon. gentleman entirely cleared his skirts from all connection with the matter, but it appeared from THE GLOBE newspaper, that at a meeting held at "Christie's house" in 1860, and at which the condition of the negroes in Canada was discussed, a certain amount of money was raised for the purposes of the Elgin Association, and a person named Archibald McKellar was present, and gave receipts for the money, and made engagements to repay it with interest, payable half yearly. There was direct connection between Mr. McKellar and Mr. King in regard to lumbering matters. In August, 1863, there was a letter to show that the Rev. Mr. King blamed Mr. McKellar for not sending payments more regularly. There was another letter from Mr. McKellar to Messrs. Haviland & South, of Montreal, to show that Mr. King was using funds that he should not use for his private affairs. Some time after Mr. Muller wrote to Mr. McKellar and got no reply, and a copy of the letter was also sent to Mr. King, who replied that Mr. McKellar had requested him to state that the Association had commenced to wind up its affairs, and that its liabilities would be settled. He (the speaker) did not charge the hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands with improper conduct, but it was singular that the monies which should have been paid were not paid yet. It required some proof to establish in what way the cash had been misapplied, for that it had been misapplied there was no doubt. He thought there should be a commission appointed to look into the matter. It was said that there had been a great deal of drainage work done, but there was no proof of such.

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR—I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. The Government employed their own engineer to oversee these works, and his report was in the Department. The Association did not benefit by the works, but the people who lived there.

Mr. RYKERT concluded by saying that