

gard to the reference made to one of the gentlemen who is named here in this motion in your hands. There has been no statement made on the authority of any member, or of any one in this House, to justify the introduction of the name of Mr. Bunting into the resolution which is in your hands, and, sir, I think before so serious a charge as that which appears in the motion is made against the conductor of one of the leading journals in this country, there ought to have been the clearest and most satisfactory proof, and there ought to have appeared upon the face of the record evidence to substantiate such a charge as that. As the Attorney-General has said, it is a charge of a most serious character, and ought not lightly to be made against any one, and I think, therefore, the Attorney-General would best have served the interests of justice had he placed upon record, in the same way that he has done with regard to the others, the grounds and the evidence upon which he proceeded. However, the Attorney-General has assumed—I apprehend upon his own responsibility as a member of this House—the making of the statement which appears in that document, and the responsibility of having put it forward must rest upon him, whatever be the result of this matter. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not desire to say a word that will have the slightest effect that ought not to be had with regard to any matter that has taken place here. I do not want to say anything that may in the slightest degree be thought to mitigate what has been done by any one; but it does seem to me that if hon. gentlemen had been as desirous of saving their honour as representatives and of saving the reputation of this House, they would have indignantly spurned upon the first occasion any proposition such as that (Oh, oh! and hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman sneers at that observation. I think the highest statesmanship, the highest duty to a man's country, the highest duty to a man himself, when an approach of that kind had been made to him, would be at once indignantly to repudiate it. I ask, let the Attorney-General put himself in the place of any hon. member, and ask what he would have done in circumstances such as these. I am satisfied that he would at once scornfully repudiate any such offer, and that no man would have attempted to have made it. I have just that observation to make. Further than that I shall say nothing. We will hear what the evidence is, and, as always takes place in any British country, we shall hear what is to be said by those who are charged, before they are pronounced guilty.

Mr. MOWAT—My hon. friend in speaking in defence of one of the persons charged, and in attacking those who have made known the fact—(hear, hear)—taking the ground that it was something like a wrong course—

Mr. MEREDITH—No; I did not say that at all.

Mr. MOWAT—Any man, in permitting overtures to be made, might take one of two courses; he might do what these hon. members did, and which is for the public interest—(hear, hear)—or keep buried in his own bosom all the corruption which might go on. It was their duty to bring these men to justice, and having done that they accomplish a very good work which they would have accomplished if they concealed what took place. In regard to Bunting, information which I have, and which has partly been laid, I presume, before the magistrate by whom the warrants have been issued, but which in all fairness will be produced on all fitting occasions before this Committee and before the Courts, is that he was a party to the whole negotiation. (Hear, hear.) It will appear from the evidence that he was as much a party to the negotiation as any one, although he did not actually pay the cash over with his own hands.

Mr. MORRIS said the matter was one of great gravity. He was prepared to vote for an immediate reference to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. It was a matter of regret that such a transaction could possibly have taken place. But while reserving his judgment as a member of that Committee, and while believing that the Attorney-General was right in bringing the matter before the House, he could not help expressing his surprise at one thing, and that was that while attempts were being made on the integrity of certain members of this House, those members should have been in the hands of the sworn advisers of the Crown, who were guiding and directing them. (Hear, hear.) They had the open disclosure of the Premier himself, made in this House, that he was cognizant of the whole matter, and that he was an accessory to it. (Ministerial laughter.) He repeated it, the hon. gentleman was accessory to the facts that were transpiring. These members, of whom tools were endeavouring to be made, were coming to him for instructions, and were asking how far they might lead those men on. While he (Mr. Morris) did not disparage the crime that had been charged, he felt that these members had been guilty of leading these men on—(laughter)—when if they had had the honour of gentlemen they would have gone to the Government and manfully said they had been approached in this way, but threw the offers behind their backs, and that they informed the Government, so that they might deal with the matter as they thought right. Instead of this course being adopted, these men, under the advice of the Government, were led to hold interviews with these men until the result was reached that had been placed before the House. He felt that the only course was to refer the matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections without a moment's delay in

order that it might be thoroughly investigated, and that the honour of the House might be upheld. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. McKIM said the hon. member for East Toronto talked of honour and dishonour. He (Mr. McKim) was one of the leading members in this matter, but he appealed to the Speaker, who had known him for a quarter of a century, to say what he had done that he should have been approached in this way. He held his political principles dear, and when he was approached by those gentlemen he was approached upon his financial standing. (Hear, hear.) He thought his honour had been dragged in the dust, and it was when those offers had been made to him and he had consulted with one of the members of the Government that he went on, and he desired the Speaker, who had known him longer than any other member of the House, to say what he had done that he should have been approached in this disgraceful manner by leading members of the Conservative party. (Cheers.) He considered that he had neither dishonoured himself, his party, nor his constituency. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. FRASER said he must confess his utter surprise that two men occupying the important positions which the members for London and East Toronto occupied in this House should on so grave an occasion, when the honour, the credit, and the reputation of the House were at stake, and when they themselves were to some extent taking strong ground against the conspiracy that had been divulged, only get up and make excuses for the scoundrels who had been seeking to degrade the honour of the House.

Mr. MORRIS—No, no.

Mr. FRASER—The hon. gentleman said the occasion was a grave one, and he knew why it was grave. It was because it was pregnant with disastrous results to himself and his friends. (Cheers.) The hon. gentleman disclosed that the only feeling he had in the matter, the only thing that roused him at all, was that when the attempt was going on to bring about the utter degradation of the House these men should have been found out, and so weaken his chances of crossing the floor of the House. (Cheers.) He (Mr. Morris) had only words of reproach for those gentlemen who deserved at the hands of the House as a whole and at the hands of the Province at large credit and honour and reputation for having brought this villainy home. (Cheers.) His hon. friend said that it was a grave and serious thing that members of the Government should have allowed this matter to go on, but he knew and the House knew that if any one on his side of the House had risen to make such a charge without having evidence in his possession he would have been laughed and sneered at for making charges without foundation. (Cheers.) It was necessary for public purity—(Hear, hear)—and in order to clear the political sky that such steps should be taken that when the matter came before the House they should be able to place beyond peradventure the conviction of these men. They had snared this brawling brood of bribers that had been hatched out under the eaves of the *Mail* office during the session. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) He told his hon. friends from South Essex and Wellington that they would get, as they deserved to get, credit and honour from the people of this Dominion from one end of it to the other. (Cheers.) He told his hon. friend from East Toronto, as he told his friend from Wellington, that there was no dishonour in bringing home guilt where guilt lay. (Cheers.) There was no dishonour in making conviction sure; there was no dishonour in putting one's self in the breach, and he said if there were two men in the House who deserved the esteem and credit of every honest man on both sides of the House they were the members for South Essex and Wellington. (Cheers.) When the question came to be further discussed in the proper place, his hon. friends from London and East Toronto would probably not find it worth their while to rise in their places and decry those who had been the instruments of justice in this matter. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. GRAHAM said that he had been approached by men with money, but they could not carry enough money to buy him. (Cheers.) What money he had was got by honest labour, and he was determined that his political name should go down with honour. He had another proposition made to him, and when he told the gentleman he could not vote against the policy of the Government, he was told that he might manage to make a speech in favour of the Opposition, and he (Mr. Graham) would be remunerated for it.

Mr. CASCADEN believed the hon. member for East Toronto had attempted to cast a hollow political prejudice around the investigation of this case. It was to be regretted that the case had not been allowed to go to the country through the Privileges and Elections Committee without an attempt to conceal the iniquity and crime. The hon. gentleman opposite had said that it would have been better for the hon. gentlemen to have spurned the efforts made by these intriguers and by this brood of bribers. He (Mr. Cascaden) knew that efforts had been made repeatedly to buy members of the House from the beginning of the present session. In the first place he was induced to pledge himself to secrecy by an old acquaintance of many years standing—a particular friend of his but a political opponent. He had been offered the same old Registrarship of Regina. (Hear, hear.) His health being somewhat impaired at the beginning