have decided. Fourteen out of fifteen of
the committee on elections, after mak-
ing a full examination of the case, have
decided that I was properly entitled to
the certificate, and as a consequence to
the seat. If the consciousness of being
right ought to make a man feel pleas-
antly, then I am entitled to the feeling.
I feel as one who is called to make sacri-
fices for a glorious cause."

Great pressure was brought to bear
upon republican members to have them
vote solidly on this question. One some-
what prominent man purposed to make
a speech denouncing the wrong which
was being attempted against me. He
told me that Speaker Keifer heard of
his intention and "bulldozed" him out
of making it. One member said to me:
"Mr. Cannon, in voting against you as
I did, I told those around me that I
did the most cowardly act of my pub-
lic life." Another said, "Mr. Cannon, I
wrote to my wife and told her that I had
done the meanest thing I ever did since
I have been a member of Congress, in
voting as I did against you." "But," said
he, "what could I do?" These are sam-
ples of expressions made upon the sub-
ject. You can understand that my po-
position was one not to be ashamed of.
The man that is wronged has no occa-
sion to feel the blush of shame on his
cheeks; it is those who commit the wrong
who ought to have that feeling; and they
cannot help feeling that they are infe-
rior to the one they have injured. But
notwithstanding the pressure of which
I speak that was brought to bear upon
members, the conspirators against the
liberties of Utah dared not trust my case
to the House till the Edmunds' bill had
passed. There were some strong men
who could not see their way clear to vote
against my taking my seat. It was felt
therefore that the only way my case
could be reached was by the Senate
and House passing a law and having it
signed by the President of the United
States. In this way, by using all the
powers of the government, except the ju-
diciary, the case was reached; but then
they had to trample upon the Constitu-
tion to do it; for the law, as applied to
me, was *ex post facto*.

I had gone to Washington eight years
previously; I had been at the bar of the
House four times to be sworn in, the
same man in every respect. It was not
charged that I had violated any law since
that time, or rendered myself ineligi-
able. After a determined contest I had
been confirmed in the seat by the 43rd
Congress—a Republican Congress—also
by the 44th Congress—a Democratic
Congress; also by the 45th and 46th Con-
gresses. Now by what law could a man
in my position, having the majority of
the votes, and the fact being conceded
that the election had been fair and that
there had been a full expression of the
people's will, according to the forms of
law—I ask, upon what principle of right
could such a man be excluded from a seat
in the 47th Congress? Legally he could
not. There is only one way in which that
could be done, that is by trampling upon
the principle of representative govern-
ment and the Constitution of the United
States. This was done in my case, and
this action will stand on the books as
a precedent that will cause men to feel
ashamed of it in days to come.

Now, my brethren and sisters, I
return here feeling, as I have said,
excellently, and cheerfully, full of
courage and hope, not at all weak-
ened in my feelings. I feel exceedingly
hopeful and joyful and am satisfied.