

the soil (loud cheers). I came here to pledge you, and to offer to you in that kind and fraternal feeling which should exist between two great nations connected with each other by such enduring ties, the sympathies and the kind feelings of the great body of the farmers of the United States (loud cheers). I came here as their representative to tell you and to make you realize that they feel under great obligation to you for the experiments that you have tried, which we being young and not rich (laughter) are not able to try, while you have the capital, the skill, and what is more the science, which has been applied to the art in Great Britain (cheers). When I look to the state of your agriculture in 1850, and compare it with its state in 1880, I am perfectly amazed. I have been overwhelmed to-day—I have seen so much and heard so much that I haven't had time to digest (laughter, and cheers). I have seen to-day that which I have never seen before. When I look back to this country only 30 years—and in the annals of time it is but a day—I look at a period when the average product of wheat was not more than from 20 to 22 bushels to the acre, and now all parties of all shades of political opinion agree that the average product is from 24 to 30 bushels to the acre (cheers). We of the United States have not the slightest jealousy of the agricultural interest of England (a laugh). We rejoice in every new agricultural improvement you bring out suited to your condition. We rejoice when we hear that through the application of agricultural chemistry you can produce another spear of grass in this kingdom. It has been said very truly that he who produces two blades of grass where one grew before is a public benefactor. I agree to that. If that be true, you are all public benefactors, because you are increasing the productiveness of your country. It is a matter for you and not for me to decide upon those great questions that agitate this country now; for I did not come here to enter into the political discussions of the British people. I may be allowed to have my own opinions, but those opinions will never be expressed in Great Britain, so far as regards the internal policy of Great Britain. But I can tell you that the more food you produce, and the nearer you come to providing a supply for the whole of your population, the more rejoiced I shall be and the country I represent. In regard to commerce there is not a man within the sound of my voice, I apprehend, who will not agree with me when I say that commerce, or navigation, or trade, or whatever name you may choose to call it, is essential to the prosperity of the agricultural interest (cheers). Commerce has been the great pioneer of civilization; and what country has done so much as this to civilize the world through the instrumentality of commerce? (cheers). I wish to do perfect justice to all interests, for I believe they are all in harmony. In regard

to manufactures it would be idle, futile, and foolish for me not to acknowledge that the manufactures of England—the spindles of England, if you please—have, in conjunction with this great, powerful, and patriotic body of men, the agricultural interest, fought the battles of Great Britain (cheers). To me there appears no discrepancy whatever in maintaining that all these interests are vital to the prosperity of this nation. In all great nations I believe these three interests are identical. It is for you to decide, and not for me, how far you may be willing to be independent of foreign nations for food (Hear, hear). That is a question that belongs to the English political casuist, and not to a man representing a great nation on the other side of the Atlantic, which is a great producer of food. That is a question I shall not touch upon. It would not become me. I did not rise for the purpose of expressing opinions in regard to the internal policy of this great nation; but I tell you that I should deem it a misfortune to my own country and to the world if, by anything, whether by the act of our own legislature or from any other cause, this mighty nation, Great Britain, should lose any portion of its power in the family of our nations (loud and repeated cheering). There is room for us all (Hear, hear). I desire to see competition among liberal—in fact, among all nations—but I desire most to see a competition existing between the old Anglo-Saxon and the young Anglo-Saxon (cheers). But let that competition be upon the principle—which of us shall most advance and diffuse civilization throughout the world? which of us will extend justice to feeble nations than ourselves—education, religion, the bible? (protracted cheering). Let that competition be this. Let us see which nations will do the most good (repeated cheering). I am happy to state that the United States is not represented alone by me on this occasion. I have on my right one of the most distinguished statesmen, and, what is better, one of the greatest and best farmers of the Union. That gentleman is the American ambassador at Paris, who has come here to meet you this day—His Excellency William C. Reeves, of Virginia. Nor are Mr. Reeves and myself the only representatives of the United States. In this room certainly—but in the vast assembly I cannot point out the precise spot—is a gentleman, one of the greatest farmers and stock growers of the Union, from the province of New York, Col. Morris, vice-president of the New York Agricultural Society, a gentleman who has been purchasing the stock of England very largely, that we in the western world may improve our own (cheers). Whatever you may think of your cousins on the other side of the Atlantic, I can only state to you, as their representative, that they are proud of their origin and rejoice that they are descended from the Englishmen (cheers). I hope at no distant day,