

hands at Washington to Secretary Bayard, and to the British Ministry, and that correspondence has continued down to the present moment. I may say that I have as little hope of seeing that question settled now as I had four years ago. One cannot help calling attention to the marked contrast that has attended the result of other negotiations between the two countries. Some twenty-eight years ago two American gentlemen were forcibly taken off a British mail steamer going from the West Indies to an English port by an American cruiser. I refer to the Masson and Slidell affair. Immediately after the outrage Great Britain came down on the United States and ordered that those men should be restored. That was an outrage of far less importance than seizures in after years of Canadian vessels in waters that the Canadians and other nations of the world have just as good a right to occupy as the United States. They might with the same propriety have seized vessels in the middle of the Atlantic; yet this has been going on with impunity for the last four years, in consequence of our inability to act for ourselves, everything having to be filtered through the British Minister at Washington; and we are just in the same position now that we were in four years ago. Again, it was only a few months ago that the little country of Portugal undertook to interfere with British rights on the coast of Africa, and how soon Lord Salisbury brought them to book, and Portugal was asked to make amends. But how different is the conduct of Great Britain towards the United States in her treatment of Canada? It has been one continuous history of wrong going on and increasing year by year. We are a loyal people, we are a forbearing people; but surely it is not quite proper and right that this should continue indefinitely, and that we should be so entirely ignored by the British Government? What deduction does one naturally draw from it? Why, that the friendship of the United States is of such importance to England that Canada must be sacrificed rather than any little friction should arise between Great Britain and the Republic. Great Britain to-day has the United States for her best customer. She buys their natural products, and she sells them the products of her looms and her furnaces. She does the largest portion of the carrying trade of the United States. She

builds their railroads and their steamboats and provides money for their private enterprises. British capital is buying up their breweries and their elevators, and every enterprise in the United States finds a ready investment for British capital. One cannot help calling attention to these points and feeling that at this moment Canada is not receiving from the British Crown the attention which her loyalty to the Empire has a right to expect. From my standpoint, and I was very glad to hear the seconder of the Address calling attention to it, it is of the utmost importance to us that there should be a solid and a long and lasting friendship between our people and the people of the United States. Are not our people of the same language, carrying on the same business and accustomed to the same modes of living, with only an imaginary line of 4,000 miles between us? The people of both countries, I believe, are willing under any ordinary circumstances to live on most friendly terms with each other, but those friendly relations cannot be maintained unless we remove the fiscal laws on either side and have freer trade with our neighbors. I would like to ask hon. gentlemen, if their loyalty would permit them, whether they would not say that their natural trade was to the south of us, and that the development of the North-West would proceed with very much greater rapidity if they were enabled to trade freely with the people south of the line? It would not affect their loyalty to the Mother Country in any degree; on the contrary, it would make them more devoted to the institutions of their own land. It in no way affects a man's feeling for his own country that he is permitted to trade freely with a neighboring nation. What has built up the Mother Country so enormously within the last few years but the simple fact that she trades with the world. England has become the trade centre of the world; money has centered there, simply because she has herself established free trade with the universe. I notice that, as a rule, there are commissions expected or to be appointed; a commission is to be appointed, I understand, to proceed abroad to gather opinions and views as to the methods of catching, curing and packing fish. Now, I thought we had as intelligent fishermen on our coasts as there are anywhere on the globe.