

when he rendered the signal service which resulted in the overthrow of the Reform ascendancy in that Riding and the election of Mr. Coughlin in the place of Mr. Scatcherd. If his hon. friend from Contre Huron were here, he would comfort him by telling him it was a majority of 800 on the one side, which was reversed by a considerable majority on the other, as an answer to his argument about the majorities by which gentlemen on the right had been returned to this House. Sir John never said anything of the kind at Parkhill. He (Mr. Plumb) was present and heard every word he said. Then he was charged with having said, at Strathroy, the same thing. He (Mr. Plumb) was present there, and no such statement was made. The real foundation of the rumour was a casual conversation at an informal meeting in London, where some eavesdropper heard and reported to that veracious paper, the *London Advertiser*, a statement of Sir John's, partly true and partly intentionally misrepresented. What Sir John said on that occasion was this:

"In noticing the argument advanced, that the United States would be offended if Canada raised her tariff, he pointed out that Mr. Fernando Wood's proposal to increase the United States tariff on certain articles to 35 per cent. as a maximum, was regretted on the ground that it was a Free-trade tariff, and he (Sir John) argued that Canada could not therefore offend the United States, even if the tariff here was raised to 35 per cent., because the Americans had pronounced that rate to belong to a Free-trade tariff."

That was exactly what he said, and nothing more; and he knew, and every hon. gentleman knew, that if any man holding the responsible position of Sir John Macdonald, understanding and valuing, as he did, the obligations that rested upon him as the leader of a great party and as the more than probable Premier who would hold office after the 17th of September, should indicate any particulars of the tariff, he would be doing an injustice to himself as a statesman, and betraying the trust of his party, and the interests of his country. But, said the *Globe*, "If Sir John did not suggest 35 per cent., what did he suggest?" That was the answer, and that was the whole case. Now, he (Mr. Plumb) wished to say that he thought, in every respect, the tariff which had been

brought down by his hon. friend had fulfilled the expectation of the country. He had not found anything in it which could, in the slightest degree, be considered as disloyal to the great country of which we were a part, and of which, he trusted, we were a part that could not be separated. He failed to see anything in it which, as was said by an hon. gentleman on the other side, could sever the golden link which bound us to the Mother Country. He failed to see anything in it except an attempt—it might be successful and might be unsuccessful—to check the constant encroachments from the opposite side of the border upon the trade that legitimately belonged to England, and to Canada itself. He had looked over the items in the tariff. He knew that, in two or three particulars, the tariff would enhance the imposts levied upon British imports; these, together, were estimated by the Finance Minister to amount to about \$550,000 out of the whole \$2,700,000. There would be reductions also, leaving him \$2,150,000, as net increase. It had been said that, in respect to the woollen trade under the new tariff, there would be an additional burden laid upon English imports. The Finance Minister thought it was necessary, in dealing with the tariff, to provide that coarse woollens should be protected for the benefit of the woollen manufacturers of this country. Also, we had in Canada a very large supply of a kind of wool which we ought rather to use in this country than to be compelled to sell to the Americans, and to pay them upon it 10c. per pound duty, and an *ad valorem* duty also, which amounted to three cents more. We should encourage that manufacture here, and it was proper that, in discriminating, we should discriminate in favour of the finer kinds of cloth which were especially manufactured in England. If there had been any partiality shown in adjusting the tariff, it had been with the especial intention of giving advantage to England, and the burden would fall where it belonged. When we used those cloths, finer woollen fabrics, which could only be furnished by England, it would be found that we had not increased the tariff on them, because it would not benefit our home production, and it was