

trade as it is in England; the hon. gentleman in past years has been a free trader, and not only so but he has been something more, and on every occasion and at every opportunity he has endeavoured to voice his sentiments, and when the hon. gentleman's sentiments did not meet with very hearty recognition and support in Ontario or any of the other provinces, he went across the line, where he knew he would meet with a more hearty reception. I ask the hon. gentleman where he stands on the tariff question? Is he in favour of retaining and perpetuating the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party, or the reverse? On 28th January last, the hon. gentleman went to North Tonawanda, as he had a perfect right to do. The hon. gentleman had a perfect right to go any place where he might expect to find an appreciative audience, and so he went there and made a speech on trade relations between the people of the United States and this country. I will not weary the House by reading the whole of his speech. Hon. members have heard the hon. gentleman so often, and I trust they will hear him often again, that I may dispense with the reading of his remarks in full, but I will read the vital and important part as showing the ideas on which the hon. gentleman believes a trade policy should be framed in behalf of Canada. His views were thus briefly expressed:

He then took up the question of annexation. The only way it can be accomplished would be to bring about a closer commercial policy. We feel that it is necessary to obliterate the present tariff, and that a more liberal and extended trade policy will have a most salutary effect on our prosperity. "We are a small country in every respect except territory," concluded Mr. Charlton. "and, as small bodies are attracted to larger ones, so also are we attracted to the larger country south of us."

Mr. CHARLTON. I rise to a correction. I do not know, Sir, from what source the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) quotes the language put in my mouth as being part of my speech at North Tonawanda. I disclaim that report of my language and I pronounce it false. I had occasion to call the attention of the pastor of the church at Tonawanda in which the lecture was delivered, to certain statements made in the Conservative press of Canada with regard to that lecture. The Rev. E. K. Sanborn, pastor of the church, wrote to the Toronto "Globe" and gave an epitome of the lecture which I delivered in Tonawanda. The reverend gentleman gave an explicit denial to the statements that were made concerning that lecture. These statements appeared first in the Toronto "World," and the "World" had the fairness to publish the refutation of the statement which came from the Rev. Mr. Sanborn. My lecture at Tonawanda was devoted to the consideration of Canadian matters; physical, political and historical. I took distinctly the ground that Canada had resources to ac-

commodate a population of one hundred million souls.

Mr. FOSTER. Surely you are not going to give us all that speech again.

Mr. CHARLTON. I am going to give a few lines in order to correct the statement made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett). I took the ground that while Canada wished more intimate commercial relations with the United States, that the people of this country did not desire to part with their autonomy, that their intention was to build up a nationality here, and that while they expected and hoped to live upon terms of amity with their neighbours, yet, they had no intention of adopting any policy that would sever the connection which exists between this country and Great Britain. I said at Tonawanda, that Canadians intended to shape their destiny in such a way as to serve their own interests in building up a nation on the northern half of this continent. That is an outline of my address at Tonawanda, and the statement to which reference has been made by the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) is utterly and entirely false—and is maliciously false.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The hon. member (Mr. Charlton) cannot accuse my hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) of saying what is maliciously false.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member (Mr. Charlton) cannot accuse another hon. member of making a statement which is maliciously false.

Mr. CHARLTON. I did not attribute it to the member himself, but to the author of the statement as it appeared in the press.

Mr. BENNETT. I wish to say, by way of defence, if any defence is needed, that the clipping I read was from the file of the Toronto "Mail" of about the date of 28th January, and if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) was incorrectly reported by the Toronto "Mail," he has recourse against that newspaper. I have to say, that I never saw any denial, nor apology, either in the "Mail" newspaper, of which I am a fairly close reader, or in the "World."

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) must accept the statement of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton).

Mr. CHARLTON. I will take occasion as a matter of privilege to read the letter of the Rev. E. K. Sanborn upon the first occasion that offers.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) will accept the denial.

Mr. BENNETT. I certainly accept the denial of the hon. gentleman. I thought I was doing the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) a compliment when I gave him the credit for his frankness. I thought I was paying him a high compliment, because surely it