

right to express our regret that my hon. friend's invitation was not accepted and some information was not given to us by the leader of the House on this important question. For my own part I may take occasion to say that I have always felt that *primd facie* there was a very great deal to be said for the contention of the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) and for the contention of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy). There can be no doubt that *primd facie* we here in Canada need to justify ourselves before we undertake to interfere or advise the Empire at large as to matters more particularly affecting a portion of the United Kingdom. But however it may appear to the House that that view is justified at first sight, I think that a later consideration will show that that after all is but a superficial way of looking at this question, that there are much larger and more important issues involved, and that not only in our capacity as citizens of the British Empire, but in our capacity of citizens of Canada, we have every right respectfully, but firmly, to advise the British Government on this question. Sir, if this House wants to understand thoroughly the grounds on which that right depends, they will have to carry their recollections back for a period of some two and twenty years, when a gang of murderous miscreants availed themselves of our hospitality to attempt a raid into the United States, with a view to embroil these two countries in war. I refer to the occasion of the St. Albans raid. And I may call the attention of those members of the House and the Government who were in the old Parliament of Canada at that time, to the fact that the moment that outrage took place, every possible exertion was used by the people of Canada to put a stop to such outrages for the future, that extraordinary powers were given to the Government of the day, and a large sum of money was voted by the Canadian Parliament to indemnify our American neighbors for the wrongs committed on them and for the injury done to their property. Sir, about twelve or fifteen months later another murderous outrage was committed in Canada, this time coming from the other side. Gangs of miscreants were enrolled and drilled on American territory, with the full approval and assistance of prominent American citizens, and they made raids into Canada; Canadian citizens were shot down defending their homes, and much injury and damage then and afterwards resulted to the people of Canada. When about three or four years afterwards questions of great importance arose between the two countries, when it was proposed that a settlement should be made between Great Britain and the United States of all matters then in dispute between them, it is also in the recollection, I dare say, of many of the members of this House that the question of the compensation be granted to Canada for the wrongs then committed upon her people was brought up for consideration, and, as the British Government had granted to us the right of having a Commissioner, and that Commissioner the Premier of Canada, amongst the gentlemen appointed to negotiate the Washington Treaty, we had certainly some right to suppose that after we at our own cost and charge had compensated the American people for wrongs and outrages, committed from our territory upon their citizens, they, in turn, would willingly compensate us for wrongs and outrages committed on Canadian territory by American citizens. I need not remind the House of the terms of the capitulation, for such it was, that was then entered into. I need not remind the House how the just claims of Canada were passed over and ignored, apparently with the full consent of the Canadian Commissioner for the time being. But if there be any gentleman here who desires to know why it is that the people of Canada claim for themselves the right to advise Her Majesty with respect to the conduct of Irish affairs I have to tell them that it was the action of British statesmen

gave them that right, and it cannot be taken away. What was the reason assigned by the English press, and assigned too by English statesmen of repute, for not entertaining the just demands of Canada on that occasion, when Britain was prepared to compensate the United States for the piratical outrages committed by cruisers fitted out in her ports. We were then told that it was not possible, in view of the hostility of the Irish element in the United States, to obtain redress for the wrongs that Canada had sustained. From that day, a new departure took place in our affairs; new relations were established as between Canada and the Empire, at all events in regard to all Irish matters. So long as British statesmen tell us they cannot claim compensation for outrages committed on Canada, because it would be likely to bring American statesmen into collision with the Irish element in the United States, so long as that is said, and what is more, is done, so long Canada has a perfect right under those circumstances to advise the people of Great Britain as to conducting themselves in all matters pertaining to the good government of Ireland, so as to remove from us and from our fellow-countrymen the danger of being exposed to the hostility of the Irish people of the United States. That is a painful subject, and I do not wish to prolong it too far. I desire to say, however, that I hold that as between the sovereign state and dependencies there is perfect reciprocity of rights and duties. I would not have supported a motion to interfere with Great Britain in matters pertaining to Ireland had not British statesmen first seen fit to declare to us that they could not obtain redress for our manifest wrongs because in so doing they would come into collision with a powerful portion of the people of the United States. Then, Sir, there is another good reason why the hon. member for Montreal Centre (Mr. Curran) should have brought in this motion now. I am sure he regrets as sincerely as I do, or as any on this side of the House can do, that the amendment which was made last year to the motion of the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) had, whether it was intended so or not, a very prejudicial effect indeed on the debate in favor of granting Ireland a measure of Home Rule, and I say it is highly desirable that the earliest possible moment should be taken for repairing and redressing the injury which, no doubt unwittingly, the hon. gentleman and many of his friends were parties to committing on the rights of the Irish people. I may add that there is another reason yet, as those who took part in the late political discussion know. My hon. friend beside me (Mr. Blake) was denounced without stint and without measure as a traitor to the Empire and the accomplice of those who want to rend the Empire asunder, because he brought forward that motion, and it is highly desirable, therefore, that an early opportunity should be given to all and sundry to affirm what their sentiments are on this measure, and to demand that the Parliament of Canada declares whether it does or does not endorse the views submitted by my hon. friend then, and practically re-endorsed by the hon. member for Montreal Centre now. This is a question on which it is right and proper that hon. gentlemen should announce their real sentiments. I was glad to hear the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill), the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien), the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) and the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), come out squarely and fairly and state their views on this matter. Having taken the stand they did in the recent elections, having spoken as they did on the question, having expressed the opinion they did about my hon. friend and other gentlemen who opposed their view, they could do no less, but it was equally creditable to them I think that they did so, and I have only to regret that other hon. members of this House, still more highly placed than they, have not seen fit, directly or indirectly, to express any opinion on the subject. Now, Sir, in the absence of the hon. the First Minister I shall not proceed with some