

of the changed commercial policy of the mother country. I hold in my hand a report of the noble Earl's speech, from which, if you desire it, I will read an extract. [Cries of read, read.] "What was the use," asked his Lordship, "what the practical advantage of continuing our connection with the Colonies? The connection might be of some small use in time of peace; but on the other hand consider the danger arising from it in matters relating to war. There could be no doubt that the chances of collision between this country and the United States were greatly increased by our connection with the North American Colonies. It was equally certain that in the event of war occurring between this country and the United States on grounds totally unconnected with the Colonies, they must, from their connexion with us, be drawn into the war, and their whole frontier would be exposed to the greatest calamities. Under these circumstances it was a matter worthy of serious consideration whether we should not endeavor, in the most friendly manner, to divest ourselves of a connexion which must prove equally onerous to both parties. The very idea of war with the United States was horrible. The event would be one of the greatest of evils,—one of the direst of human afflictions. Connected as we were in all the details of commerce, it would be more like tearing asunder the limbs of one human body, than the collision of two separate bodies. Why needlessly increase the chances of war? Our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic were very ambitious and very sensitive on the point of honor. So were we; and we were also extremely sensitive on the point of justice. Not only would we not endure injustice to ourselves, but we could not tolerate the perpetration of injustice to another. These considerations should lead us to regard a rupture with the United States as an event which might happen at some period. Under these circumstances he hoped that, at an early period, the Government would communicate with the leading persons in the Legislative Assemblies of the North American Colonies with the view of ascertaining their opinion on the subject of a separation. We should consult with them in the most friendly

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