

tious motives. I have no doubt that American traitors are as deeply concerned in the Canadian speculators. (Great applause.)

Mr. HOWE—I believe you did not; and let me say, also, Mr. Chairman, that no gentleman from the Province has taken offence at anything said or done in this assembly. We are accustomed to free debates at home, and let me assure Mr. Hamilton that none of us felt aggrieved at his banter yesterday, which we accepted as a compliment to our shrewdness.

Mr. Chairman, I must now touch upon a subject of some delicacy and importance. It has been urged by Mr. Morrill in Congress, and by the people of the United States, that the treaty ought not to be renewed, because it had bred no friendship towards them across the lakes—that in their struggle the sympathies of the Provinces were with the South. Well, if that were true in its fullest extent, which it was not—if you had not had one sympathiser among the native people and British residents of the Provinces, it could fairly be pled in response that when Great Britain was at war with Russia the sympathies of the American people were very generally with the latter country. I was in the United States at the time, and was perfectly astonished at the feeling. Russia was at that time a country full of slaves, for the serfs had not been emancipated, and England was at war with her to prevent her aggressions upon weak-neighbouring countries. How the American people could sympathise with Russia was a perfect puzzle at first sight, and could only be explained in the same manner that much of the sympathy for the South on the part of the British subjects can be explained. And when the Canadians once had a rebellion within their borders, where were the sympathies of the American people then? Were they with the Canadian Government or with the rebels? Why, you not only sympathised with them, but I am sorry to have to say it, gave them aid along the frontier in many ways, and to a very large extent. I am happy to be able to say, that during the whole four years of the late rebellion in the United States there has not been developed a particle of evidence to show that a single citizen of any British North American Province put a hostile foot upon your soil. (Loud applause.) Everything of which complaint can be made has been the act of your own people, in violation of the hospitality and right of asylum everywhere extended to them on the soil of Great Britain and her dependencies. I make these remarks in no spirit of anger or of excitement, but to show how unfair it is to hold any Government or people responsible for the actions in it of a few evil-disposed individuals, as well as how natural it was for sympathy to be aroused in the minds of people on one side or another. In our rebellion, when its attention was called to their acts, the United States Government exerted itself to keep its own citizens within bounds, and all that could have been asked of the Provincial authorities has been freely done to prevent any cause of complaint against them. It is something to be able to say that during the four long disastrous years of war just ended, not a single act of which complaint could be made has been committed by a Canadian. Notwithstanding the false reports that were circulated, I do not believe there was a single intelligent citizen of my Province, at least, who did not believe that the capture of the "Chesapeake" off the coast of Maine, by rebellious citizens of the United States, was nothing less or more than an act of piracy. And so of the St. Albans raid. The Government of Canada acted most promptly and nobly in connection with that affair; and has repaid the money which rebellious citizens of the

United States had carried into their territory from the States banks. (Hear, hear.) As to their harboring the rebels and extending to them the right of asylum, is there a single American here who would have his Government surrender that right? There is not an Englishman, an Irishman, a Scotchman, nor an American who would fight there was rather than give up that sacred right. (Applause.) How many excellent citizens of the United States are there from this country at this moment, and how many were there who helped them to fight their battle, who dare not go back to their own native lands across the ocean on account of political offences? The American people would not give these men up to their respective governments, and thus surrender their right of asylum; they would every man of them fight first. (Applause.) It is very proper that criminals should be given up, and a treaty for that purpose has been made between England and the United States. We may sympathise with political offenders, but not with criminals. When Abraham Lincoln fell by the hand of the assassin, the act was reprobated from end to end of the British Empire. (Hear.) But admitting that a large number of people in the Provinces sympathised with the rebels, what of that? Did not a very large number of the Northern States sympathise with them? Nobody ever saw two dogs fighting in the street, or two cocks fighting in a backyard, without having his sympathies aroused, he scarcely knew why, in favour of one or the other of the combatants, and generally the weakest. (Laughter.) Suppose some feeling was excited in the British Provinces, was that any good reason for refusing to allow us to trade with you across the lakes? The sympathy expressed for the South may be well balanced by the young men whom you have drawn from the Colonies. (Hear, hear.) For one ton of goods sent to the Southerners, and for one young man sent to aid their cause, we have sent fifty tons and fifty able-bodied soldiers to the North. The people of the Provinces might lay the charge against you of having seduced their young men away from their homes, and left their bodies bleaching on Southern plains or rotting in Southern prisons. Only a short time ago I met 3 British Americans, going home on a single vessel, after having served years in the war, and having left scores of their companions behind to enrich the soil. At Washington I met with a brave nephew of one of my late colleagues in the legislature of Nova Scotia, who held the rank of lieutenant in a Massachusetts regiment, with only one leg to take him back to his home instead of two. (Loud cheers.) I met another veteran from my Province who had fought in twenty battles, and was on his way home. In my own family and person I have suffered not a little by this unhappy rebellion. I have five boys, and one of them took it into his head to enter your army. He has now been for nearly two years in the 23rd Ohio regiment, and has fought in all the battles in which that regiment has been engaged during that period. He was in both the great battles under Sheridan, in which Early's forces were scattered and the Shenandoah valley cleared. (Loud and long continued applause.) All the personal benefit that I have derived from the Reciprocity Treaty or hope to derive from its renewal, will never compensate me or that boy's mother for the anxiety we have had with regard to him; but when he produced the certificates of his commanding officers showing that he had conducted himself like a gentleman, and had been faithful and brave, it was some consolation for all our anguish to know that he had performed his duty. (Enthusiastic applause, during which the speak-