

anywhere from one end of your Atlantic coast to the other. And now I hope that our friend from Maine will acknowledge that in granting this privilege, with nothing in return, Great Britain gave you a pretty large slice. [Cheers and laughter.]

The citizens of this country may build in any of its ports steamers or sailing vessels, and clothe them with the character and invest them with the privileges of British ships by registering them in any part of the Empire. In peace this is a great privilege, and gives to the ship-builders of Maine and Massachusetts, a very decided advantage over those on the opposite side of the Bay of Fundy. In war, assuming Great Britain to be a neutral, it is a protection. I trust I have shown, 1st, That the British Empire is sufficiently extended, populous, and powerful, to be independent of the hostility or fiscal errors of any foreign State: 2nd, That her commercial code is characterized by principles of liberality so broad, as to invite exchanges with all the world, and that, altogether independent of the Reciprocity Treaty, she has granted privileges to this country for which no equivalents have been asked or given.

The Reciprocity Treaty was a special arrangement forced upon both countries by a long frontier, by the proximity of rich fishing grounds, and by the difficulty of drawing accurate and recognized boundaries upon the sea. I need not enter upon