

posite. The right hon. gentleman goes on to declare that he adheres to his language used at Halifax. The hon. gentleman, however, went on to apologize for it, after a fashion. I am very sorry, indeed, for his sake, and for the sake of the people of Canada, that the hon. gentleman did not take this opportunity at once, and manfully to apologize for, and retract, the extremely indiscreet and mischievous language he was guilty of using on that occasion. I have no doubt whatever that the language used by the First Minister has had a very prejudicial effect in the United States and on the Government of the United States. It is not in accordance with international comity, it is not in accordance with common prudence and discretion, for the chief Minister of a friendly power to declare that the people of Canada, forsooth, will "look with philosophic eyes at the struggles of a fierce and discordant democracy." Does not the First Minister know that to-day in the United States there are more than 1,000,000 of the best blood of Canada to be found? Does not the hon. gentleman know that in almost every portion of Canada there is hardly a family to be found which has not a son, brother, or near relative in some portion of the United States? And can the First Minister tell us that we can look with philosophic eyes on revolutions which will tear and convulse the United States? I have a better doctrine to preach than that. I tell the hon. gentleman this, and every true Canadian, whether of the Liberal party or of the Conservative party, will endorse my sentiment, that the prosperity of the United States is, and ought to be, next to that of our own country, dear to every true Canadian, for the reason I have stated; and I tell him more, and hon. gentlemen beside me know it well, that no great misfortune can overtake the people of the United States, circumstanced as the two countries are to one another, without greatly injuring the general prosperity of the people of Canada, too. I suppose the hon. gentleman is sincere, although I am not certain, looking at his acts and the language used by his followers, in saying that he and his Government desire the prosperity and success of the people of the United States; but they have taken a very curious way of showing it.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, before the House rose I had taken occasion of calling attention to the very remarkable omission on the part of the leader of the Government to offer an explanation to this House of the reason which had induced him to send several prominent members of his Government to Washington. I had intimated some of the difficulties which appeared to my mind to have presented themselves to the hon. gentleman and which probably prevented his giving these frank explanations to the House of the reason of that remarkable mission, which no doubt he would otherwise have been glad to do. I may say that for my own part it appears to me utterly and absolutely impossible; I cannot for one moment believe, I refuse for my part to believe, unless there be positive documentary evidence in the hands of the Government to the contrary, that these hon. gentlemen went to Washington, under the circumstances which I have described, on the

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

invitation of the American Government; I cannot believe that such a thing is possible. I would be very loth indeed to think that any Government, much less the Government of the United States of America, should have invited a deputation from our Government to confer on important matters, and who on their arrival found it utterly impossible to obtain any audience on the subject-matter for which they were invited to go to Washington. It appears to me that these hon. gentlemen must, to say the least of it, have gone there self-invited; and, further, it appears to me, when we come to consider certain correspondence which we have seen, that if they were invited at all they had been invited to stay away, unless they were prepared to discuss the subject on certain conditions, by no manner of means obscurely intimated to them, or to the British ambassador either, by the American authorities. I take it that the real position of the matter was this: the Government, as was admitted by the First Minister during his speech, and as was stated by his press, had committed themselves to the assertion that they had good reason to believe that they would be allowed to enter into negotiations with the Government of the United States. For that assertion I am sorry to say there appears to have been no warrant whatever. Nevertheless, having made the assertion, having to a very considerable extent conducted their campaign on the assumption that they were warranted in declaring that they were prepared to deal with the American Government, it was impossible for them to face Parliament, under these circumstances, without having made some attempt to show that these assertions of theirs were justified. It appears to me very much indeed as if these hon. gentlemen had hoped to entrap the Government of the United States into a discussion which would give an excuse for saying to the people of Canada and to the Parliament of Canada that, as there were negotiations going on with the United States, it would be highly inexpedient for us to discuss the question of the trade relations on which these negotiations in future were mainly to turn. Here is the statement which these hon. gentlemen are good enough to make to the House and to invite the House to acquiesce in:

"We are pleased to be informed" —

They ask us to say —

"— that His Excellency's advisers, availing themselves of opportunities which were presented in the closing months of last year, caused the Administration of the United States to be reminded of the willingness of the Government of Canada to join in making efforts for the extension and development of the trade between the Republic and the Dominion, as well as for the friendly adjustment of those matters of an international character which remain unsettled. I am pleased to say that these representations have resulted in an assurance that, in October next, the Government of the United States will be prepared to enter on a Conference to consider the best means of arriving at a practical solution of these important questions."

Sir, it does appear to me that the hon. gentlemen are to be commended upon one point; it appears to me that taking into consideration the character of their utterances as to the Government and the people of the United States during the late campaign, and on many other occasions, they are to be commended for having shown such a cheerful disposition to acquiesce in the treatment which they seem to have received at Washington. I shall give them as much credit as they deserve, but I have got to say this: A new question, and an important