

Satan then returns to Pandemonium and boasts of what he has done, but in the midst of his boasting, his professions are belied by the degrading transformation which takes place, when he and all his followers are suddenly changed from angelic forms into hissing serpents. The leader is transformed into a serpent and his followers take his form, and looking at the kind of speeches we have listened to from the Minister of Commerce and the hon. member from Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), it would seem as if these gentlemen had assumed the garb of dissimulation adopted by their leader and propose to rival him in duplicity. Now this is a most serious thing. Before quoting Mr. Chamberlain's last speech let me clinch this matter about the professions of free trade. - I have here a dispatch from Montreal dated 30th November, which says that the "Star's" London cable says: That the Cobden Club is quite satisfied with the position of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. And this is the character they give him, a character that may be very useful to him, but I shall be glad to know how it will be received by the gentlemen who listened to his silver eloquence at the Board of Trade banquet at Toronto:

"In view of the adverse comments made in Canada and elsewhere on the fiscal policy of the Dominion Government, the committee think it right to state that they have reason to be satisfied that the present Administration at Ottawa is inspired by a genuine desire to advance on the lines of free exchange so far and as rapidly as possible, consistently with prudent regard for the difficulties created by the long rule of a high and comprehensive protective system."

Here, as late as November, the Cobden Club states that it was quite satisfied with the Prime Minister; and from this and from his utterance of last night, notwithstanding what his supporter from Toronto Centre said, he must be held to be opposed to preferential trade. (Hear, hear.) Still further to clinch this matter, I have

here the last speech made by Mr. Chamberlain. Take this in conjunction with that of the Right Hon. Arthur Balfour and, with those of the Right Hon. Gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) himself, and with those of Lord Salisbury also, made before the Jubilee. As late as January, 1898, Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at Liverpool, declared in favor of closer union with the colonies. Speaking of the Jubilee, he said:

"It was the growth of an over-mastering and a universal desire in favor of closer union."

You will observe that, Sir. Of course as has been shown by what other hon. gentlemen have quoted in this House, and as I have further established by the opinions of these Wiltshire farmers, they were ready, in the glow and heat of that jubilee period to do more than meet us half-way if we had reached the hand to them. Mr. Chamberlain further says:

"It is not for us to take the initiative. We would rather follow the lead; but what I think I have already accomplished is to convince them that wherever they live, however far their home may be from the centre and from the mother land, we, at any rate, are prepared to meet them more than half-way in any proposal they may make to us (cheers). In any desire which they may express for their closer union (cheers); and, gentlemen, it will come (hear, hear), if not in our day, then in that of our successors."

Later on he says:

"But in whatever way it may be presented to us, we shall not be deterred either by the economic pedantries or the selfishness which is a virtue with some politicians from giving favorable consideration to any proposals which our brethren across the seas may make to us. And in such a consideration, I for one—"

I ask your attention to that—
—do not believe the English people will keep a strict account of profit and loss." (Cheers).

So that today the sentiment is pre-