

heaven, a people who enjoyed so full a measure of true and perfect liberty as that which is the blessed portion of our people in Canada. For it is a full measure of British liberty. And what is that ? It is absolutely uncontrolled freedom of thought, word and action, within the bounds of wise and just laws. Outside those bounds lie license and anarchy. There British freedom wilts and dies ; and just in proportion to the degree in which those bounds are jealously guarded, just in proportion to the degree in which those wise and just laws are carefully administered and firmly enforced, do we have a more or less perfect form of that British liberty which the good sense and patriotism of the people of this country have so happily conserved for themselves and their children after them. I say there is not a man present who does not know that to this British connection we owe this British liberty, and there is not within the four corners of this broad Dominion a man who does not in his heart know and confess that it is through and by virtue of that British connection alone that Canada, with her 5,000,000 of people, has been enabled to maintain her just rights against the high-handed encroachments of her powerful neighbor to the south, and is to-day enabled to treat upon terms of the most perfect and absolute equality with that great republic and her 55 or 60 millions of inhabitants. Talk of using our fishery rights as a lever with which to move the United States to trade with us upon fair terms ! I should like to know where our lever would have been to-day were it not for the protecting power and influence of Great Britain ; and I venture to think the value of our lever is none the less that we have the weight and might of Britain at the right end of it. But, thank God, it is there for us to-day as it has ever been of yore, ready, aye, ready, at our need. And yet, oh, burning, blistering shame ! oh, poor, frail humanity ! there are those among us who would strive to persuade themselves and you that we might in all honor and with conscience clear use this power with which the Mother Country thus willingly and affectionately supplies to us and fashion with it a weapon to wound her own breast ; that at the very moment when she is lending us her strength to struggle with our adversary, we should use that (her own) strength to betray her own best interests and dismember her own empire. In other words, that we might as honest and honorable men use those fishing rights which, but for the sheltering power and influence of