

solution, appeared upon a public platform and poured contempt upon the idea of the markets of the United States being of any value to our farmers, even if they did get them. These were the same gentlemen who put it into the mouth of the Governor General to say that so great did he consider the boon that might possibly be obtained by negotiations at Washington that they had dissolved Parliament prematurely in order to bring it about. That is the position of hon. gentlemen opposite; and, Sir, if it were not that the honour of Canada is bound up in what these hon. gentlemen do we might view their action, the ridiculous condition in which they have appeared, with a little more equanimity; but, Sir, I hold that the honour of Canada has not been maintained by the course of these gentlemen: I hold that the honour of Canada has been lowered by the action of the High Commissioner. Just let me read to this House, from the papers that have been brought down, one or two extracts from a letter that Sir Charles Tupper wrote to Sir John A. Macdonald from Washington, on 21st April, where he is detailing to him the interview that he had with Mr. Blaine. He says:

"I told Mr. Blaine that I wished, in the outset, to recognize the accuracy of the statement contained in his letter to Sir Julian Pauncefote, which I have seen, in reference to the initiation of the negotiations regarding reciprocal trade arrangements between the two countries: that I believed it arose from the negotiations which had recently taken place between the United States and Newfoundland; and that, upon that being communicated to him by Sir Julian Pauncefote, he had expressed his willingness to open negotiations for reciprocal trade arrangements between Canada and the United States, assisted by delegates from the Dominion Government, the negotiations to be informal, and to a certain extent of a confidential nature, until they could assume a more formal character, if any result were arrived at."

Sir, I say that the High Commissioner of Canada who had declared—and they knew it—that the initiation of all these negotiations was at the suggestion of Mr. Blaine: he who could boldly proclaim that on the stump here ought to have been able to enter into the presence of Mr. Blaine, without being compelled to acknowledge that what he said was not true, but that what Mr. Blaine said in reference to it was true. Sir, I say that Canada is lowered in this respect, and, therefore, we feel more deeply than if any single gentleman had been concerned, however high he might be. And then, Sir, to think of a High Commissioner, a representative of the Canadian people, going to Washington and attempting to secure an informal conference, if possible, with Mr. Blaine, in order to get a reciprocity for this country which the Finance Minister said was of no value, even in the matter of natural products alone. Fancy that man in the presence of a statesman to whom he had gone to talk upon international affairs using language like this:

"I then told Mr. Blaine that I wished to remove the idea, if he entertained it, which had been promulgated in Canada and the United States, that the present Government of the Dominion was not warmly in favour of the most friendly relations with the United States. In an article which I had recently sent over my own signature to the *North American Review* I had undertaken to give conclusive evidence upon that point, and that I need further only refer him to the fact that when Sir John Macdonald, who was one of Her Majesty's Joint High Commissioners, submitted to Parliament for approval the Alabama Treaty, which settled also all the then pending questions between Canada and the United States, he was fiercely denounced by the leaders and press of the Liberal party for having basely sacrificed the interests of Canada

in his endeavours to promote the friendly relations between Canada and the United States. I added that I had experienced the same treatment from the same party when I submitted, for the approval of Parliament, the Treaty of Washington of 1888. I was then charged by the leader and press of that party with having conceded everything to the United States and obtained nothing in return, so great was my anxiety to remove all causes of dissension between the two countries."

Fancy the position of the Canadian High Commissioner conferring with the Secretary of State of a great nation like the United States, trying to impress on his mind that he and his party were the great friends of the United States, but the Liberal party were opposed to the Republic and its interests. What had he to do with talking about parties: what had he to do with drawing discriminating lines between parties, even if the lines were true? But that gentleman crouched in the presence of Mr. Blaine instead of taking the manly stand that an hon. gentleman should take in the presence of another. Fancy that man taking that crouching position in the presence of one of the leading statesmen of that country and assuring him of the friendly feeling that he entertained towards Americans. Fancy him doing that after heaping the insults he had cast on that country and that Government, which he offered on the platform in Canada. What did he say with respect to the United States, when speaking at Amherst in March, 1891. He made one of the most insulting statements that it was possible for the citizen of one country to use with regard to the people of another country. He was speaking of the difficulties that the Conservative party had to contend with. He said they had the Liberal party to contend with, the provincial Governments, the Grand Trunk Railway, and a little later he is reported as having said, and I call attention to that—this utterance of the High Commissioner:

"He did not forget the enormous influence of the 65,000,000 of Americans. We had not only beaten our opponents here, but the 65,000,000 to the south of us."

The hon. gentleman thus cast an insult in the face of the whole American nation, stating that they had stooped as a nation to do what he accused the Liberal party of doing, to endeavour to subvert the allegiance of Canada to Great Britain, and cast in her lot with the United States. This gentleman insulted the American people, and then crouched before Mr. Blaine. The papers brought down deal with an important question, namely, that as to duties levied on articles that might be made free in the treaty between the United States and Canada, and in which there would be discrimination enforced against Britain. What do we find in the papers? That the British Government had authorized negotiations to be carried on between Newfoundland and the United States, and a draft treaty was prepared, and under it articles were to be admitted free from the United States by Newfoundland, while those articles were to remain taxed as against Canada, England and other countries. To that document the British Minister gave his consent. I want to point out to hon. gentlemen who may not have read the draft treaty that it was not only with respect to raw products that were to be admitted free but agricultural implements when imported for agricultural societies, ploughs, harrows, and some other manufactured articles. These were to be admitted free from the United States while