

tion. I need not ask the hon. gentlemen, for I am satisfied they are prepared to admit, that that is a step in the right direction, and to give credit to the government, such a measure of credit as they are entitled to for that bold—for it was a bold step, but a step in the right direction, and a step the fruit of which will be salutary, the fruit of which already appears, and that followed by the domestic penny postage rate seems to have rounded out the step. I need hardly say that, I think the people of this country, however some hon. gentleman may differ from me, will give the government a fair measure of credit for adopting the penny postage letter rate. And now I hope hon. gentlemen will allow me to say that I think that the Postmaster General has administered his department not only with boldness, but with satisfaction to the people of this country as well as to the satisfaction of Great Britain and that in taking that course, he has entitled himself to have placed to the credit side of his public career, a very large item of credit for his conduct in that matter. If I could have imagined such a thing and accomplished so much, I would have felt that I was acting for an ungrateful people if they did not give me full credit for a step of that kind. One consideration more on this point. It is our wish, it is our desire, it is to our interest to draw Canada as closely as possible to the mother country, and I do not know of anything that has occurred in my lifetime—which has not been very short so far—that has done more to bring the Dominion of Canada immediately to the presence of Great Britain than has the giving of preferential trade to Great Britain, followed by the effect of the Premier's visit to Great Britain during the Jubilee, a visit which I never can refer to without speaking of it as the Premier's conquest of Europe, because of what followed. That, taken together with preferential trade, the visit of the Premier to Great Britain during the Jubilee year, and the commanding position that was assigned him and accorded him there, and this penny postage rate—these three circumstances have done more in my opinion—and I ask hon. senators to give my poor words a little consideration before pronouncing judgment, and if they will do so, as I know they will not be premature in any judgments they pronounce—they will consider that my view of the matter is substantially correct. I have detained the

House longer than I intended to do. I have felt a great deal more at home in this House than I thought I would, because when I look across at the hon. leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition in this Senate I find a very warm personal friend whom I knew and who knew me long before, I fancy, he or I knew any one in this chamber, and from the first hour of our acquaintance I have received from him, what I am sure and shall hope and expect to receive in the future, nothing but kindness; and I am only glad to find that I am called upon to speak in the presence of one so sympathetic and so fair, always fair, and loving British fair-play. Now, I think you see my view with regard to the position of Canada. Her prosperity in every way, as evidenced by our immigration and her desire to trade not only with Great Britain and the islands of the sea and our neighbours to the south, but wherever trade is to be had. And I cannot better express the view that is in my mind than by a quotation, which you will pardon me for making, from a speech of our former Governor General, Lord Dufferin. In describing the position of Canada with regard to the Empire his language runs substantially in this way: "In a world apart, secluded from all extraneous influences, resting at the foot of her majestic mother, Canada dreams her dream and forebodes her destiny—a dream of ever-expanding harvests, of multiplying towns and villages, of expanding pastures, of constitutional self-government and a confederated empire; of page after page of honourable history, added as her contribution to the annals of the mother country and to the glories of the British race; of that temperate and well-balanced system of government, which combines in one mighty whole as the eternal possession of all Englishmen, the brilliant history and tradition of the past together with the freest and most untrammelled liberty of action in the future. That is the position which that brilliant Irishman considered that Canada occupied at that time. Now, shall we, hon. gentlemen, prove worthy of that heritage? If we do, we must not rest and be thankful; we must not be satisfied, as I take it, with present achievements. Our watchword must be "forward." We may well take up the sentiment that "new occasions create new duties."

"Time renders ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of truth."