

by the courts. "Oh yes," said he, "you mean Canadian judges." "Yes," I said, "I mean Canadian judges, and let me say to you that the judges that sit in our Canadian courts are quite as high in point of honor, if not of ability, as the judges in any English Court of Justice, and that the interests of any Englishman, in any company or society such as that you have mentioned, are just as safe in the custody of our officers of justice as they are in yours." There is an inevitable belief, a belief that cannot be dispelled from the minds of leading British statesmen of all parties, that there must be something inferior in the colonial relation. Now, I do not believe that. I recollect very well when Sir F. B. Head was Governor of Canada, that he thought the establishment of municipal institutions was sure to lead to our permanent separation, at a very early day, from the British nation; and he was pleased to characterise them as sucking republics which would gradually grow up until they became a great republic. At a later day another Governor occasionally was pleased to express an opinion of the same sort, and the late Lord Derby, in one of his speeches, so late, I think, as 1854 or 1855, expressed his opinion that if a measure then sought—that is a change in our relations as to the Upper House, if I recollect—a right became law, then we might say farewell to British connection with Canada. Such have been the opinions of leading men in Britain for many years, of which I have given some examples. But I am surprised to find the Premier of Canada countenancing such opinions at this time of day. Has not every measure passed for the extension of the franchise, for the consolidation of the Colonial Empire on this continent, tended to promote that connection and make it still stronger? If I believed the adoption of this resolution, and still more the adoption of the policy indicated by this resolution, was to have any permanent or immediate injurious effects on our relation to Britain, I for one should immediately oppose it. I look forward with great anxiety and great pleasure to the result. I anticipate no danger to the relations of the colonies to the Mother Country. I believe that Great Britain and her Australian Empire, and Canada and the other portions of that Empire will possess a growing influence which will make itself felt in every quarter of the globe. I believe our commercial and political relations are safer, giving the utmost possible latitude to Canadians, than they would be if a restrictive policy, conformed to the ideas that prevailed in former times, existed. As an example of what we may expect sometimes, from English statesmen, we heard Lord Kimberly eulogized very greatly to-day by the hon. gentleman opposite, on his liberality and breadth of view.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No; I spoke in a directly contrary sense. I stated he was a Free Trade doctrinaire of the most restricted, bigoted kind.

Mr. MACKENZIE. A doctrinaire in Free Trade, but a model of liberality otherwise.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I said nothing of that kind.

Mr. MACKENZIE. He stated he did not say that and does not believe it—neither do I.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I did not express any opinion.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Lord Kimberly, six or seven years ago, sent a dispatch to Earl Dufferin, stating that it was not necessary to consult his ministers except where it suited his purpose. That is a specimen of the modern whig statesman. I think it of the first importance that our statesmen should manage our own affairs. One thing is perfectly certain, that we can understand our own interests, and another thing is clearly certain, there would be a method contrived if we should reach that stage, by which the general assent of the English Crown could be obtained to any such negotiations. There could be no serious difficulty about that. Of course the

Mr. MACKENZIE.

right hon. gentleman, some ten years ago ridiculed a motion brought up for the same purpose. But I was glad to-day to find that even he had made some progress; because when denouncing the resolution of the member for West Durham, he afterwards glorified himself and his Administration for having made some progress, because they had appointed Sir Alexander Galt, as a sort of quasi-ambassador to Europe. He has been ambassador to France and Spain, and as proof of his status, has to sit in an outer room when the two ambassadors are discussing matters and if his opinion is thought to be worth anything, he is called in, and asked questions, and that is the position which the hon. gentleman desires to assign a Canadian ambassador. The excellency and usefulness of the position is such that it appears from the papers that he is not disposed to submit to it any longer. The hon. gentleman said that great progress had been made with Spain and France, and related to us with great gusto interviews with certain statesmen in both countries. We know that it has cost us some \$20,000 or \$30,000 a year, and not one step has been gained yet by Sir Alexander Galt or the Government he serves in the direction of trade and commerce with other countries. The establishment of a steam service once a month with Brazil, which has not yet begun to run, is not an ambassadorial function at all. It is a mere matter of business, which any merchant could arrange. As to the tendency of such a motion as this leading to a complete separation of this country from Great Britain, we need only consider the fact that there never has been a discussion on constitutional changes but what we have had the same threat presented to us. When we first began to advocate a Federal union of the Provinces, when in 1859 the Reform Convention of Ontario decided on some method of uniting the Provinces by a Federal compact, with some general authority for the management of general business, we were at once assailed by the Tory members, and if I recollect rightly by the right hon. gentleman, as taking part in a movement which had for its end the separation of the colonies from Great Britain. Yet, who does not know that the relations of Canada to the Empire when Lord Durham came out here were of the most delicate and tender kind; that the grievous political wrongs suffered by this country, the tyranny exercised by Governments and persons in authority and the nepotism and corruption which prevailed; who does not recollect the anxiety with which the people, especially in Lower Canada, entered into the consideration of those political grievances in 1839 and 1840, and who would have been surprised, looking at the history of that period, if those difficulties had culminated in the separation of the colonies from the Mother Country. But from that day to this the growth of public sentiment has been in one direction. The extension of the freedom and privileges of the people has gone on rapidly, almost uninterruptedly; and keeping pace with the progress of public opinion, actions and measures have shown the loyalty and devotion of the people of Canada to the Empire of which we form so important a part. I have no patience with that littleness of soul which instead of using argument threatens us with being vain reactionaries and revolutionists. Such efforts form no portion of my argument. Let us consider this measure on its merits. If the hon. gentleman could show one single argument or reason which could lead to the conclusion he maintained those resolutions would result in, I would join him with the greatest alacrity, for I prefer maintaining the existence of our relations with Great Britain, to obtaining a temporary triumph at the expense of that connection. I hold, therefore, that gradual action in relation to obtaining perfect freedom of commercial relations with other countries is entirely consistent with our duty to, and our present relations with, the British Empire. But assuming the hon. gentleman was as earnest as he was vigorous in his declamatory speech to-day what reason does he give for sending Sir Alexander Galt to Eng-