

prived of their pound of flesh: that they knew their interests were imperilled, and that if the Government receded from enforcing the sacred right of taxing the people of Canada to the bare bone, then they would have to account to the men who put them there, and I may say to the honest votes of the people of Canada.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Oh!

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The hon. gentleman had another very important reason for not dealing with the question. The hon. gentleman has had his lesson, and I hope it was not entirely thrown away upon him: he knew right well that it would be a very perilous thing indeed for him to give an account, or to make the pretence, of the negotiations going on at Washington, which may not have squared strictly and exactly with the facts. The hon. gentleman knows, and the House knows, how certain extraordinary statements made—if not by himself, at any rate on his authority, and through his subsidized press—were dealt with almost immediately on their delivery by some of the authorities at Washington. The hon. gentleman knew in the third place, and hon. gentlemen on both sides of this House know, that it would be an extremely dangerous thing for him to allow it to be understood, after what had passed during the late elections, after the promises which were made by many of the hon. gentleman's supporters, after the statements made by his press—it would be an extremely dangerous thing for him, on the other hand, to state honestly and candidly to these men—what he knows perfectly well in spite of all his gasconade—that if free trade with the United States or extended trade relations with the United States, are to be obtained at all by the people of Canada, it is only on the lines laid down by my hon. friend—as laid down by the Liberal party of Canada. All those things the right hon. gentleman knew right well, and, therefore, although he knows, and none better, how earnestly the people of Canada are looking for a distinct and plain exposition of what the Government meant by their recent trip to Washington, of what the Government meant and propose to do on their return to Washington a few months hence, the hon. gentleman took right good care to indulge in a few specious generalities, and, as usual when hard pressed, to take refuge in assertions about his loyalty and his devotion to British connection. Well, Sir, I have designated the value of the hon. gentleman's loyalty on other occasions. His is the loyalty that pays, and so long as it pays Her Majesty Queen Victoria will have no more faithful subject than the right hon. gentleman. But I can recollect, aye, I have seen in old times communications from the hon. gentleman which show that when he sat on the Treasury benches his loyalty was, to say the least of it, of a very much cooler description than it is at present. The hon. gentleman talks and has talked elsewhere of the Liberal party of Canada as the party of annexationists, and elsewhere I have told the hon. gentleman, as now on the floor of the Parliament of Canada I tell him, that his chosen friends from his youth up have each and everyone been annexationists. Never in all his life did this super-loyal gentleman form a Cabinet, and he has formed many Cabinets, in which he did not have one, but usually two or three specimens of the annexationists foremost in

the ranks of the Cabinet: and even at this day, forty or fifty years afterwards, he possesses one or two still. The hon. gentleman says my hon. friend (Mr. Laurier) is a disappointed man. My hon. friend stands in the proud position that for the first time I believe since Confederation, he, the Liberal leader, stands at the head of a Liberal majority from the Province of Quebec. As regards the Province of Ontario, the right hon. gentleman did succeed in obtaining a bare majority by as many votes as you can count on the fingers of one hand, and as many individual votes as you can count on the fingers of one hand to form the right hon. gentleman's majority. But did he secure a popular majority? Not a bit of it: the records go to prove that there was a clear popular majority of all the voters of the great Province of Ontario arrayed behind my hon. friend (Mr. Laurier), and on behalf of free trade with the United States. The right hon. gentleman declares that a door was opened in November last for friendly communications with the United States. There is a difference of opinion on that point, which I will come to presently. Certain men as likely to know what the opinions of the United States are, certain men at least as well advised as the First Minister of Canada is, as to the views of President Harrison and his Cabinet, have expressed an opinion which I think the hon. gentleman will find very hard indeed to reconcile with that statement. But he brings it as a charge against my hon. friend beside me that he differs from his former leader, Mr. Blake. Now I have noticed, and I dare say the House has noticed, that as soon as it comes to pass that a Liberal leader, whether my hon. friend who usually sits beside me (Mr. Mackenzie) or Mr. Blake or any other hon. gentleman is dead and gone or practically away from the political arena, then all at once the right hon. gentleman discovers great virtues in him: then all at once the right hon. gentleman is prepared to say to those of us who remain alive supporting the Liberal party: Well, these men have fallen away from the high and lofty principles which their leaders in former times possessed. Such is the kindness of the hon. gentleman that I verily believe if I myself were translated from this sphere he would not hesitate to canonize me, always providing I was well out of his way and I could not do any mischief. If the hon. gentleman and his friends desire to know what Mr. Blake thinks about the causes which may lead to the annexation of Canada I recommend him to read certain pregnant and powerful paragraphs in the letter which has been quoted, in which Mr. Blake shows with the greatest possible perspicuity that the continuous corruption, misgovernment and mismanagement of the right hon. gentleman and his Government have all but rendered it absolutely impossible to carry on government in Canada. It may be that our friend put a little too strongly his view of the case: but I commend to my hon. friends around me these paragraphs, and I suggest, and I hope they will act on the suggestion, that on all occasions when hon. gentlemen opposite choose to allude to opinions as those of Mr. Blake, but which he says he did not express on this subject, will give them *in extenso* the full benefit of the valuable and true facts which Mr. Blake has set forth touching the corruption and misconduct of hon. gentlemen op-