

"It was said he should have demanded preferential trade from Great Britain as well as the getting rid of the obstructive treaties, but if he had asked for both he would have received neither. He had appealed, not to John Bull the man of business, but the man of big heart. "One step had been gained, the step that first had to be gained, and if he had attempted more, it would have meant failure. The way was clear now to preferential trade, so soon as Great Britain was ready to grant it. Why, we have the proof that not only were the statesmen of Great Britain ready to grant it, but that England herself, the great heart of John Bull, was beating for this preferential trade. (Cheers.) But what does the hon. gentleman tell us when he comes back? He comes back and tells the Board of Trade at Toronto that while he was the guest of these men, while accepting that Cobden medal, while enjoying their sumptuous hospitality, all his statements, his statement that Canada wanted nothing in return whatever, were all a piece of sly diplomacy, a piece of dexterous perfidy. (Cheers.) It pains me—and I say it unaffectedly—to find a First Minister of Canada playing such a role.

We have had during this debate, some very extraordinary and very strong literary comparisons. For instance, the leader of the Opposition has been compared to the scurrilous and unsightly Thersites. Now, when we take the course of the right hon. gentleman on this preferential trade question, there is a comparison that suggests itself, and I do not make it in any offensive sense. If you take the career of Milton's Satan, after he meets his followers in Pandemonium, and follow it from that out, you will find a most extraordinary similarity between it and the course of the right hon. gentleman. Satan's account to his followers of his exploits in duplicity, as recorded in "Paradise Lost," bears a remarkable similarity to my right hon. friend's account of his doings on the other side. I sup-

pose that, in all their readings, hon. gentlemen may have read the best known comedy of Foote. It is a comedy that was borrowed from the French, and the humor of it consists in this, that the hero gets himself, by reckless statements, into scrape after scrape; but still his confidence in his extraordinary resources, his imaginative power of concocting, is so great that he never doubts for one minute that he can lie himself out of any scrape that he gets into. Well, he was a feather-brained man of fashion; but you will remember that when the grand divan of demons takes place, as recorded in "Paradise Lost," Satan stands before them and declares he is going to deliver them out of hell, and that he will alone first explore the way. He meets Death and Sin, and, true to his policy, flatters them. Then he visits the country of Chaos and Old Night, and promises to reduce the new created world to darkness, which promise he has, of course, no intention of keeping. Then he meets the Angel of the Sun, to whom he represents himself as what he is not in order to gain certain information, and then he transforms himself completely, and is found at the ear of Eve whispering suggestions to her. In the assumed character of the Serpent, he assures her that he has eaten the forbidden fruit himself, which he has not, and that if she will eat of it, she will become a god, which he knows she will not. Then, when brought before Michael and charged with his unlawful intrusion into Paradise, he first says that his object was to fly from pain. When taunted with being the first to fly from pain he replies that that was not his reason, but that his object was to avoid hazarding his armies in untrod ways and first spy out himself the new created world. Now, mark the way Milton, the great Puritan poet, makes the Archangel Michael reply: "To say and straight unsay, pretending first
"Wise to fly pain, professing next the
"spy.
"Argues no leader, but a liar traced."
(Cheers).