

railways, was simply incalculable. All honor, therefore, to the man who, above all others, had been instrumental in bringing about these results. (Cheers.) Then we had the Clergy Reserve Question, a most difficult and complex matter, in which Sir Francis had been in the front of the battle, demanding, and in the end securing, the right of Canadians to settle it. The struggle was arduous, but the result was a settlement which has received general concurrence. (Cheers.) The abolition of Seigniorial Tenure was another great reform we owe, in a large measure, to Sir Francis Hincks. The negotiations which ended in reciprocity with the United States, were largely carried on by him, and finally concluded when he was Prime Minister, and, in that capacity, accompanied Lord Elgin to Washington. The establishment of the steam mail service with Great Britain was the work of the Hincks' Administration, and, in this matter, their friend had given support and effect to the exertions of the Hon. John Young, with whom the scheme originated, and to whose energy and patriotism they owed so much. (Cheers.) He could go on to mention a host of important matters dealt with to great public advantage during these busy years, did time permit. But a period was reached when the great abilities of Sir Francis obtained Imperial recognition. It would be interesting to read, in this connection, some extracts from official correspondence which Sir Francis had kindly placed in his hands. The first letter was from Sir William Molesworth, Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 17th August, 1855 :—

" COLONIAL OFFICE,
17th August, 1855. }

" MY DEAR HINCKS—The Office of Governor-in-Chief of Barbadoes and the Windward Islands will be immediately vacant. If it would suit you to accept it, it would give me very great pleasure to submit to the Queen the name of a statesman so distinguished in Colonial administration as yourself. Lord Palmerston joins me in the wish that you may be able to undertake this office.

" Believe me,

" Yours very truly,

" WILLIAM MOLESWORTH.

" P.S.—The salary is £4,000 a year.

" To F. Hincks, Esq."

(Cheers.) The second, written a few days later, proved what had long been known to the intimate friends of Sir Francis, that the offer had been entirely unexpected, and that he had asked for time to