

ledge or to receive him as Her Majesty's representative, because he was a native of Canada? What! is it the business of a foreign Court to ask a British Ambassador whence he comes, and if he is a native of England, Ireland or Scotland, or lives beyond the limits of the United Kingdom? They have no right to put such a question; such a supposition is preposterous. The only thing is, are you properly accredited in this business; are you properly accredited to this Court by the Queen. It is not the English Ministry, not the English Parliament, but Her Majesty that is known abroad. Negotiations are carried on in her name, and the man who goes to a foreign State to carry on negotiations for the United Kingdom or for any part of the Empire, has the right to deal with a foreign State and is subject to the instructions he has received from Her Majesty. As the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) said, the Queen is not merely the Queen of the United Kingdom, but the Sovereign of this Dominion, and if she appoints an Ambassador or Plenipotentiary or Agent to act on her behalf for the purpose of communication and treaty between this section of the Empire and any foreign State he is just as competent to act as the resident Ambassador. The hon. leader of the Government made the extraordinary statement that no treaty, no engagement, is binding, or can be made with a foreign State unless it is signed by the resident Ambassador. Now, I say this is a most preposterous statement. He could not have remembered the negotiations between the American representatives and those of the United Kingdom, in 1783, in Paris. All will remember the disputes between Mr. Fox and Lord Shelburne, as to whether the negotiations with the American representatives should be carried on by the Colonial Office or the Foreign Office. The American colonies had claimed their independence, and it had not been recognized; and there was a conflict between the two Departments as to which should carry on the negotiation; but there is no doubt about this, that whoever the Government appointed for the purpose of carrying on these negotiations was the properly accredited person for the purpose, no matter whether he wanted the authority of the Foreign Office or of the Colonial Department. Well, Sir, when you look at the treaty that was negotiated in 1855 by Lord John Russell, at Vienna, for the purpose of concluding the Crimean war, it is true it was not ratified by the House, but it is true also that it was not negotiated by the resident Minister, but by a Plenipotentiary extraordinary, a Minister of the Crown who was sent for the purpose of carrying on that negotiation on behalf of the British Government. It is therefore utterly preposterous for the hon. gentleman to stand here and undertake to mislead and misinform this House by making such a statement. There is no doubt that the representative residing at a foreign Court could conduct these negotiations as he is the accredited agent of his Sovereign. He is specially acquainted with the manners, customs and circumstances, having long resided on the spot, having in this respect an advantage over a person specially appointed for the purpose; but there is no doubt that, if the Sovereign chooses to confer upon a Plenipotentiary extraordinary the power to negotiate a treaty or to carry on any business with a foreign State, the Sovereign has the right to do so. It is perfectly clear, then, when we look at the facts, that if Her Majesty gave us the power, if the English Government consented that we should have the power asked for in the resolutions submitted by the hon. member for West Durham, we should have the right to advise Her Majesty to appoint some one from Canada to act on our behalf—to negotiate a treaty with a foreign State; and the person so appointed would be perfectly competent, and would act by the authority, not of the Government of Canada, but by the authority of Her Majesty, and it would be simply as Her Majesty's representative that he would be known at that foreign Court. The hon. gentleman has referred to the attempt at negotiation

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with France, but the hon. member for West Durham showed the roundabout and dilatory manner in which these negotiations were carried forward. The ancient rules and red-tapeism still adhered to in the Foreign Office, rendered it almost impossible that the negotiations should be carried to a speedy conclusion. It is perfectly obvious that Sir Alexander Galt failed to secure commercial relations with France because of the obstacles which this routine placed in his way. It is true, the right hon. gentleman said, he failed, but that we lost nothing by it; it is true, he said, at that time France was imposing a tax of 40 francs a ton on Canadian shipping offered for sale in the French markets, while only two francs a ton were charged on British shipping, but that now the tax was reduced to 2 francs on Canadian ships. But the hon. gentleman only stated half the truth, and his statement was therefore misleading. At this moment, although the duty on Canadian-built ships has been reduced from 40 francs a ton to 2 francs a ton, Canadian ships are in a worse position than they were when Sir Alexander Galt was carrying on these negotiations. What are the facts? Why, that France at this moment pays a bounty of 30 cents a ton on home-built ships for every thousand miles of sailing they do; she pays a bounty of \$12 a ton for the construction of these ships, and a bounty of \$22 a ton on the engines and machinery employed in ordinary steamships, so that these bounties today are a greater impediment to the sale of Canadian-built ships in the French markets than was the old tax of 40 francs a ton. The hon. gentleman has referred to a censure that he says was pronounced on the French Consul at Quebec, because he undertook to negotiate here without the authority of the French Government. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman misstated the fact. It was on the colleague of the right hon. gentleman that the censure was pronounced, not by the French Government, but by the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Sir Charles Dilke. If I am rightly informed, the British Minister asked the right hon. gentleman—for he was in England at the time—how this matter came about, and he asserted that his colleague had no authority for entering into any negotiations; and Sir Charles Dilke censured the hon. Minister of Public Works in Canada for entering into negotiations without any authority with the French Consul at Quebec. The right hon. gentleman says that we have begun by sending an Ambassador—where? Why, to the Government of the United Kingdom, to a Government with whom we are in the most intimate relations, to a Government who have a representative here to whom we can speak—sending a representative where we have least need of one. When Sir Alexander Galt was appointed, the right hon. gentleman did not represent that this was the principal object in appointing him; the principal object, he said, was to save a large expenditure to this country by the visits of Ministers to England for the transaction of business. We required to borrow money in the English market; we required to do something to promote emigration from the United Kingdom to this country, and it was said that Ministers would no longer require to visit the Capital of the United Kingdom, and Sir Alexander Galt was appointed for this purpose. But we learn that now Sir Alexander Galt was appointed not for this, but to act as our Ambassador, not only to the Court of St. James, but to the whole universe; he was to be our Ambassador to Madrid, to Paris, to Berlin, and to every other Court on the continent of Europe. We are also assured that he is to be our Plenipotentiary extraordinary to the Emperor of Brazil. The hon. gentleman has told us that we are opening up trade relations with the Empire of Brazil, that an extensive trade is growing up between the two countries, that the productions of the two countries are such that they are well adapted to trade with each other, that there is no rivalry or competition between them, but that one is supplying to a large degree the wants