

Northern States during the civil war. I say there never was a more unfounded statement made. I say there is no evidence of hostility to the United States. So far as our population went, it was proved by the fact that from 20,000, at the minimum, to, as some say, 40,000 men went from Canada to fight the battle of the North. Some few men, some way or other, got through the Northern States and joined the South, but from 20,000 to 40,000 Canadians joined the ranks, and fought and fell and died in the ranks of the Northern Army: and I undertake, now that the statement has been made, to bring down to the House and to show to Parliament the repeated thanks which the United States Government gave for the way in which Canada behaved during that war. Secretary Seward said Canada had behaved well, and he wished to God that the mother country had behaved half as well as Canada. I can say that Canada was painfully anxious to perform her duties and to preserve her neutrality during that unhappy war. I can show that we went beyond the obligations imposed by the law of nations. We had to spend our money in order to prevent Canada from being made the basis of operations along the frontier. We had 10,000 volunteers watching the frontier in warlike array, men taken from their homes for months and months, and we cannot be charged with having been neglectful of our duties. I speak with knowledge on this subject, and I know that we, members of the Government, were determined, that by no action or sympathy on the part of Canada should the mother country be brought into a conflict, or into a hostile or semi-hostile position with regard to the United States. That I avow, and that I can prove. Now, Mr. Speaker, I can only say, with respect to the statement that it is a disastrous victory, that we are satisfied. I ought to be satisfied, because at the end of this present Parliament, if it lives, I shall be some eighty-two years of age: and I can say that we are going to last that time, unless we dissolve. I tell my friends and I tell my foes: *J'y suis, j'y reste*. We are going to stay here, and it will take more than the power of the hon. gentleman, with all the phalax behind him, to disturb us or to shove us from our pedestal. I omitted to make the usual compliment to the mover and seconder of these resolutions. There is no necessity for my doing so. They have at once stamped themselves as men that this House will be proud of—men that have a great political future.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I had supposed when the First Minister took the floor, that he would at least, as a matter of common parliamentary etiquette, have deemed it right to give something like an intelligible and satisfactory answer to the objections which were raised by my hon. friend to the very extraordinary use of the prerogative which led to the dissolution of the last Parliament and the assembling of the present one. I certainly expected, still more, that the hon. gentleman who devoted the one important paragraph of his speech to a description of the hopes which the Government entertain of a speedy settlement of the question that so long engaged the attention of the country, the hope of obtaining extended trade relations between Canada and the United States—the hon. gentleman who has
Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

deemed it right through the mouth of His Excellency, to congratulate us on the fact that six months from the present date, or thereabouts, an audience will be accorded to the Ambassadors of Canada, if they go to Washington, would have been kind enough to have shed a little light on a certain recent trip which was made by prominent members of his Cabinet to the same city of Washington—or possibly it may be, Sir, that in the mind of the hon. gentleman, trips to Washington are so associated with treason of the extremest dye, that he is afraid to tell the House that two distinguished members of his Cabinet made a trip to Washington—an officious, not an official visit as my hon. friend will say: that they went one thousand miles down to interview these pestilent Yankees, and returned the next day, one thousand miles from Washington to Ottawa. Sir, I think that under the circumstances it was the duty, and is the duty, of the hon. gentleman and his colleagues, to tell us why and wherefore this visit was planned and made. To the best of my recollection the hon. gentleman did not even allude to the fact with which all Canada was ringing, with which all North America was ringing, that a few days ago he sent two members of his Cabinet and my Lord the High Commissioner down to Washington, and that these hon. gentlemen were obliged to return here, having achieved and effected—what?

Mr. LANDERKIN. Nothing.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Oh, yes, they did. Let not my hon. friend take away from them what they did. They achieved and effected an appointment six months hence, or an interview, an informal interview, apparently, with the hon. Secretary of State of the United States. Sir, I think the hon. gentleman owes it to the House to state the nature of the circumstances and how these things came about. I was surprised, for my part, to find that the hon. gentleman steered entirely clear of that subject. We understand the hon. gentleman's position. We understand that he stands between three fires on this question. We know quite well that the hon. gentleman found it very hard indeed, after sending that mission to Washington, to account to his taskmasters and paymasters of the "Red Parlour," and to explain what he was doing at Washington with his ambassadors. Why, Sir, we know it was reported, from one end of this country to the other, that Sir Charles Tupper had rushed in fiery haste from Ottawa to Washington—had bulldozed the Cabinet, and had taken with him two of his trusted friends and gone back to Washington—and we know enough of Sir Charles Tupper's previous action, we know enough of what occurred in this House: we know enough of the reasons which severed him from his colleagues on a certain memorable occasion, to know that Sir Charles Tupper—and I say it to his credit and not to his discredit—was determined, if he went down to Washington, not to return with empty hands, manufactures or no manufacturers. But these gentlemen were suspicious, as well they might be, as soon as they knew of the approaching mission to Washington, and there was a flight of vultures from all parts of the Dominion, there was a flight of those gentlemen here to tell the Government that they brought them in—no, Sir, they bought them in—and they were not disposed to be de-