

Mr. Mowat, Mr. Huntington and Mr. Rymal. Mr. Oliver, Mr. Irving, Mr. Thompson, of Haldimand, Col. Skinner, Mr. Clark, and Dr. Baxter were there; but as far as could be learned, those eloquent expounders of Reform principles were speechless on that occasion. The Finance Minister was reported to have said, *vide Globe*, October 16—he was speaking of the ruin of the United States, of course:

"The lessons which have been taught cannot have been wholly lost on the American people. They are setting about in real earnest to find, as David Wells puts it, the way to regain true national prosperity, on a true and stable basis. Mr. David Wells, one of the ablest and most scientific thinkers in the United States, we find proving to his countrymen most conclusively that, had they had Free-trade with the people of Canada, it is more than probable their trade with Canada alone would have excelled their whole volume of foreign exports at present. And, proceeding to point out to them the extreme folly they had committed, and bearing also high testimony to the great natural resources we possess—a testimony which it would be well for every Canadian to bear in mind—even at the risk of tiring some of you, I cannot refrain from reading his remarks on the condition of the Province of Ontario."

The hon. gentleman then read or recited part of the foregoing extract from Mr. Wells, beginning carefully at "North of Lakes Erie and Ontario," and ending with, "Such a country is one of the greatest gifts of Providence to the human race, better than bonanzas of silver, or rivers whose sands contain gold." At Teeswater, where the late President of the Council, *vice* Cauchon promoted, uttered his swan song, the late Finance Minister also improved the occasion, and said, if the *Globe's* report of November 5th could be depended upon:

"I cannot resist the temptation of reading to you a few words written by an American economist, who was once a Protectionist, but who has been converted, and is now known as a very earnest Free-trader. You will not think any the worse of him, when I say that his name is Wells, and Mr. Wells, returning to the Province of Ontario, speaks as follows."

Then followed the same extract, with the same cunning and careful avoidance of the beginning and the end of the argument. This, then, was the high authority whose policy had been persistently recommended by the gentlemen on the other side of the House, and it came with bad grace

from them now to charge his hon. friends with doing anything that would be likely to sever the golden bond that existed between us and England. He (Mr. Plumb) thought that very extract showed what the ulterior motive of American Free-traders was. They wished to force Canada into a position which would enable them to take possession of this country. He believed that every man in the House who had studied the question was satisfied that the union which existed between Canada and England could not be severed without violence. He had never heard of England parting voluntarily with but one of her colonies, and that was one she held as a quasi-trust—the Ionian Islands. He believed that we had a right to self-government under the responsible system, and he believed that England wished to concede to us the largest liberty consistent with that system and principle. He did not believe any estrangement between England and Canada would result from this proposition of his hon. friend in the direction of bringing Canada out of the slough of despond in which she had been plunged by the incompetency of the gentlemen who preceded the present Ministry. Anything that increased our prosperity increased our ability to purchase from England. The trade followed the flag, and, therefore, the paltry addition of \$550,000 to tariff items, which might possibly fall upon English manufactures, for the benefit of Canada, could not be denounced as anything disloyal. Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House never should have made that charge, and it never should have been reiterated in the newspapers. He (Mr. Plumb) hurled the charge back with indignation and scorn on those who had been pleased to bring it forward as a political argument. This tariff had been made for the purpose of preventing \$25,000,000 or \$26,000,000 of gold going from us to the United States yearly. Our imports from the United States were \$23,510,846 worth of dutiable, and \$27,801,823 worth of free articles, for the fiscal year 1877, and \$23,438,053 worth of dutiable, and \$25,163,686 worth of free articles for the year 1878. Nearly two-thirds of the free goods came into direct competition with our agricultural products. Goods valued at some fourteen and a