

"in the position of foreigners. The confederation of
 "Canada which has resulted in such gigantic progress was the work
 "of Canadians, and regarded by many British statesmen as a pre-
 "lude to getting rid of responsibility.

"Regarding as I do British institutions as giving greater security
 "to life, property and liberty than any other form of government,
 "I have devoted more than half a century to increasing efforts to
 "preserve *the connection of Canada and the Crown*. When Great
 "Britain was involved in the struggle in the Transvaal I led the
 "van in forcing the Canadian government to send aid. BUT I
 "DID NOT BELIEVE THEN, AND I DO NOT BELIEVE NOW, IN TAXATION
 "WITHOUT REPRESENTATION. THE DEMAND WHICH WILL SOON BE
 "MADE BY SOME THAT CANADA SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE IM-
 "PERIAL NAVY IN PROPORTION TO POPULATION, I REGARD AS PRE-
 "POSTEROUS AND DANGEROUS.

"I read with pleasure the resolution passed unanimously by
 "the House of Commons which pledged parliament to proceed
 "vigorously with the construction of the Canadian navy and to
 "support Britain in every emergency, and all that in my opinion is
 "required is to hold the government of the day bound to carry
 "that out honestly. Navies are maintained largely to promote
 "the security of the mercantile shipping of the country to which
 "they belong.

"When I remember that in the general election of 1891, the
 "friends of British institutions after a desperate struggle, which
 "cost that great and patriotic statesman, Sir John A. Macdonald,
 "his life, we only secured a majority of about 25, and I have no
 "hesitation in saying that *had the principle of a contribution to*
 "*the imperial navy according to our population then been in operation*
 "*that majority of 25 would have been in favor of continental free*
 "*trade and the adoption of the tariff of the United States against*
 "*Great Britain*. Who can question the accuracy of that opinion
 "who remembers that in 1896 my government was fiercely denounced
 "in Quebec by Liberal candidates and Liberal newspapers on account
 "of its militia expenditures, when they declared that an expenditure
 "of \$3,000,000 to buy rifles for the militia was a danger to the country
 "and that the military programme of the government was 'frightful.'

"I do not forget that all parties in the United States agree in
 "the desire to obtain possession of Canada. Under existing circum-
 "stances it was of immense importance to have Sir Wilfrid Laurier
 "and his party committed to the policy which secured the unani-
 "mous consent of the House of Commons on a question of such vital