

If I can get this province out of the union with Canada that is another matter; but so long as we continue to be a portion of the Dominion, if the interests of British North America conflict with the interests of the British islands, I shall always consider it my duty to stand by the interests of British North America. But I have no reason to find fault with the mode in which these provinces have been treated by the imperial government: I have found no disposition on their part to ignore our just wishes or to impose on us in any way, and I have no reason to suppose that whatever we may require as a nation, the British government or the British people will hesitate to concede. I believe that if the majority of the people of the Dominion of Canada declare that they desire to enter into this arrangement which Mr. Butterworth's bill proposes, you will not have the first word of opposition from the authorities of Great Britain. The British people recognize that while it is desirable that there should be a close bond of union between Canada and Great Britain, yet, that whenever the commercial interests of Canada and of Great Britain commence to diverge it would be madness on their part to attempt to coerce the interests of Canada.

Who does not honor the name of John Bright?

Throughout the length and breadth of the British empire, nay, wherever the English language is spoken, and wherever the British name is known, over all that vast expanse no man is more honored as a patriot, there is no greater advocate of the cause of freedom and justice in every land. But in his place in the British house of commons John Bright has risen up and declared that he saw that the true policy for Great Britain was that there should be a united North America, without a custom house from one end to the other. And what John Bright has the right to say in the British house of commons, I reserve to myself the right to say in this parliament. The British people recognize the fact that they can only carry on commerce with this or any colony in the lines of common interest, and it is only in the lines of common interest that they could attempt to carry it on. And I have it from men conversant with British sentiment to-day—men loyal to the empire, men who would not for their right hands take a single step to impair the honor or weaken the resources of that empire—that, if the people of this country desire commercial union, if it has any tendency to develop their trade, if it promises to impart life, hope and activity to the commercial interests of this country, that it will not have the opposition of the British government. In this connection let me say that Great Britain herself has something to gain by this commercial union. The heaven of free commercial intercourse between the United States and Canada would tend to promote greater liberality in the trade relations of both countries with Great Britain, would tend to the reduction of the almost prohibitive duties of the United States against British manufactures, and would tend to cement, in a large degree, in my judgment, the feeling of amity, of cordiality, now

every year increasing between Great Britain and the United States. Why, sir, in the memory of men in this house, there was nothing but jealousy between the two countries. In 1855, when England was engaged in a war with Russia, we found the people of the United States sympathizing with—whom? With the English people, of the same race, speaking the same language? No, sir, nothing of the sort. We found them sympathizing with the Russian nation. But only three or four years ago England seemed just on the brink of another war with Russia; public feeling was in the highest state of tension, and we did not know what moment the premier of Great Britain would have to announce a declaration of war. And then, sir, we found the greatest journals of the United States, the great newspapers of Boston, New York, Cincinnati and Philadelphia, declaring that in the great contest likely to be precipitated between Great Britain and Russia the sympathies of the United States would be on the side of the nation that carried in her hands civilization, progress and political freedom. That indicated an enormous change. But what more did we see? In 1884 the Americans gathered to celebrate the surrender at Yorktown, the last blow which struck down British power in the United States.

A hundred years had rolled by, and the people of the United States, with their president at their head, were going to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of that great event. What did they do? The president gave orders that the British flag was to be saluted by every soldier, by every gun, and the fact was applauded by the entire nation. When President Garfield died did not Queen Victoria express the sympathy of the whole British nation? When General Grant died, did not the church of England give him a niche in Westminster Abbey, a burial place in the capital of the British empire? These, sir, are indications of the great and growing sympathy between the two nations; and we, sir, and the people who inhabit the British islands, the cradle of the British race, now encircling the world, have all a common language, a common origin and a common interest with the people to the south of us; and I say that a community of commercial relations between us may, and I believe would, tend to spread amity throughout the entire world. I believe the proposal of Mr. Butterworth, if adopted on that, and on this side of the line, will inaugurate a system of intercourse, of communion, between the two great branches of the English speaking race fraught with advantage to the world.

Now, I do not know that it is necessary to say more. I have said already more than I intended when I rose to my feet. I say I have it on high American authority that, if the British American legislatures adopted resolutions of this character, the effect would be to strengthen the hands of those supporting this bill; and believing, knowing, that the people of Nova Scotia have a deep interest in strengthening this movement, that this legislature would be happy to give its support, and that it desires to proclaim this fact, I