

risk of the hatred and hostility of Scotland. But such is our position and yet we adhere to you. Why? Because it is a question of honour and not of interest. Is it from any special regard we have for the Manchester cotton spinners, the cockneys of London, or even for the very enlightened individuals who now wear the Coronets of England, or divide the rhetorical distinctions of the House of Commons? No! By the Beard of the Prophet, no, we have heard and seen you all, and we go back to our North American homes, conscious that the race we are training there are worthy to be classed as your equals. What then binds us to this country? Our interest? God forbid. Let Nova Scotia throw herself behind the Morrill tariff to-morrow and shut out the manufactures of England, there would be cotton mills upon her magnificent water powers in less than two years; and the whole consumption of thirty millions of people for her manufactures, as well as for her raw products, would be open to her at once. Her fishermen would immediately share the national bounties which are given by the Republic to foster a National Marine. The coasting trade and the free navigation of the rivers of the United States would be open to our vessels; we could coast from Maine to California. Every Gubernatorial chair, every department, every diplomatic office, on either continent, would be open to us; and yet, with all these temptations to desert you, we still adhere to England. Why? Because, as I said before, it is a question of honour and affection, and not of interest. Our allegiance has never been divided, but has come down to us, in an unbroken stream, from the earliest records of the monarchy. We have never been anything else but Britons. Why should we now? Don't tempt us, by unworthy suspicions, and political hypercriticism of our every act, to desire to be anything else. Not only our blood but our thoughts have been mingled for centuries. Our fathers fought on the same fields, died on the same scaffolds, burnt at the same stakes, struggled for the same principles; won the Great Charter, built the great Cathedrals and castles, cleared up the face of England and made her what she is; and shall you, because you happen to be left in possession of the homestead, and because we have gone abroad to extend the territory of the Empire, to people the earth and to subdue it, to illustrate and reproduce our civilization under new forms and in distant regions—shall we, I ask, forfeit our inheritance, be deprived of our birthright, and hear our brethren plead that their interest is no longer promoted by the connexion!

Why, you think little of your interest where your honour is concerned in your transactions with foreign nations. You do not repudiate your treaty with Portugal, or your moral obligations to the Turk. Shall your own brethren be treated worse than foreigners? When you violate your compact with the descendants of those Englishmen whom Cornwallis led to Halifax, with the descendants of the loyalists who stood by you when the old Colonies deserted, with those British and Irish emigrants who have gone to the Provinces with their shamrocks in their bosoms and their thistles in their hats, fondly believing that they were not going from home. When England does this, then let the holders of the National Scrip