



IN THE BAHAMAS
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couraging. We came to believe that if we were able to export any article to the United States with profit to ourselves, we might expect to find that before long an additional tariff charge had been placed upon it. Naturally we wished for better trade relations with the United States, but we wished in vain. We sent deputation after deputation to Washington without success. If I remember aright the last was not even received by the President of that time. Do you wonder that Sir Wilfred Laurier said—"No more deputations to Washington! If we are ever to have reciprocity, Washington must come to Ottawa!" We were thrown on our own resources. We developed new markets. We prospered. Gradually the United States learned that Canada could do without her; that Canada could not be squeezed; that tariff war meant injury to both countries; and, gentlemen, Washington has come to Ottawa! Uncle Sam has seen the error of his ways and has extended the hand of tariff friendship. We have taken it. But does that mean disloyalty? Not at all! We in Canada wish to live in the closest possible

friendship with our great neighbor, the brother who is still a brother though he has left the mother's roof. We Canadians feel that the relations not merely of the Dominion but of our whole Empire with the United States cannot be too cordial. Canada wishes to be the closest and warmest of friends to the great American republic—a sister, if you will, but assuredly not a wife! Friendship? Yes, emphatically. Marriage? Decidedly no! (Laughter.)

Now, gentlemen, as I have said, the United States has learned that Canada is too large and too prosperous to be successfully squeezed in tariff matters. Cannot the Bahamas also learn a lesson from our experience—the lesson that you, as a small Colony, can never hope to negotiate on terms of equality with the United States? But, gentlemen, if you come into partnership with Canada, we can extend to you the advantages of that reciprocity arrangement which we, as a larger country, have at last been able to secure from them. (Applause.) And I may here add that you as a southern province, with products entirely different from those of the North, would help to round out the Dominion and make us even more independent in trade matters.

But now let us look at the matter from the strictly Imperial standpoint. Every thinking man knows that our Empire suffers from lack of cohesion. These isolated colonies suggest to me a number of small detached sticks. Any one could be broken with ease. Instead of being a strength to the Empire, they require protection. If, however, you tie one of these little sticks up with the larger one, Canada, it not merely becomes stronger by union with the larger one, but to the extent that if it has any strength at all it adds that strength to the larger one, so that both combined are stronger than either alone would be. (Applause.) Anything that binds together even a part of our Empire makes for the strength, not merely of one part, but of every part.

Another thought arises in this connection. The outlying Dominions and Colonies of the Empire need something more than bare increase of prosperity, wealth, trade and population. From the British point of view, what Canada, for example, most needs, is a fuller realization of her own importance and of the extent of her duty as a great and prosperous part of the Empire. I know of nothing that would more effectively broaden the views of our people, and make them realize their own importance, than the addition of a few outlying provinces, such