

responsibility of this step, and relieved the Canadian Government from any share in it, when he stated openly in the House of Commons that the Imperial Government had seen fit to withdraw the claims, but that they had done so with great reluctance and sorrow for the manner in which Canada had been treated.

Canada, therefore, had every right to look to England for that satisfaction which she failed to receive through the inadequacy of the correspondence to cover the question. England, by taking the responsibility of declining to push the claims, put herself in the position of the United States, and we had a fair and reasonable right to look to her to assume the responsibility of settling them. She did not decline that responsibility, and the consequence was that if we failed to obtain redress from the United States for those wrongs, we had yet an opportunity of securing compensation, which would not have been offered to us if it had not been for the steps taken by this Government. (*Hear, hear.*)

But, sir, we are told that it is a great humiliation for Canada to take this money. Why, it is our due. We are entitled to it, and we must have it from some one. England refused to ask it for us from the United States, and she accepted all the responsibility which that refusal involved. She was wise in accepting that responsibility; she must take the consequences, and she is willing to do so. But the Canadian Government, on the other hand, were unwilling that the compensation which England thus acknowledged was due to us by her should take a direct pecuniary form. We were unwilling that it should be the payment of a certain amount of money, and there were several strong reasons why we should not accept reparation in that shape. In the first place, if a proposal of that kind were made, it would cause an investigation as to the settlement of the amount to be made between England and Canada of a most unseemly character. We would have the spectacle of a judge appointed to examine the claims in detail, with Canada pressing her case upon his attention, and England probably resisting in some cases, and putting herself in a position which could hardly fail to be regarded as one of hostility to Canadian interests.

It was, therefore, in the last degree inadvisable that the relations between Canada and the Mother Country, which throughout have been of so friendly and pleasant a character, should be placed in jeopardy in that way; and accordingly a suggestion was thrown out which, without causing England to expend a sixpence or putting the least additional burden upon her people, would, if acted upon, do us more good, and prove of infinitely greater advantage than any amount of mere money compensation we could reasonably expect. This was a mode of disposing of the question in the highest degree satisfactory to both countries, and one which does not in the least compromise our dignity or our self respect. (*Hear, hear.*)

The credit of Canada, thank God, is well established; her good faith is known wherever she has had financial dealings. Her Majesty's Government can go to the House of Commons and ask for authority to guarantee a Canadian loan with a well-grounded assurance that the public of England will never be called upon to

put their hands in their pockets or tax themselves one farthing to pay it. (*Cheers.*) At the same time, the Imperial Government, by giving us this guarantee, grants us a boon the value of which in the great works of public improvement we have undertaken was explained the other day in a manner that I would not attempt to imitate by my hon. friend the Finance Minister (Hon. Sir Francis Hincks). Besides the double advantage to ourselves in getting the endorsement of England without disadvantage to the English people there is to be considered the great, the enormous benefit that accrues to Canada from this open avowal on the part of England of the interest she takes in the success of our great public enterprises. (*Cheers.*)

No one can say now when she is sending out one of her most distinguished statesmen to take the place of the nobleman who now so worthily represents Her Majesty in the Dominion. No one can say when England is aiding us by endorsing a loan spreading over so many years, and which will not be finally extinguished till most of us now here will have been gathered to our fathers. No one can say under these circumstances she has any idea of separating herself from us and giving up the colonies. (*Cheers.*) The solid substantial advantage of being able to obtain money on better terms than we could on our own credit alone is not the only benefit this guarantee will confer upon us; for it will put a finish at once to all dreamers or speculators who may hope or dream or believe in the alienation and separation of the colonies from the Mother Country. That is a more incalculable advantage than the mere advantage of England's guarantee of our financial stability, great and important as that is. (*Loud cheers.*)

Aye, but it is said that it is a humiliation to make a bargain of this kind. Why, Sir, it was no humiliation in 1841 to obtain an Imperial guarantee for the loan necessary to construct the canals originally. It was not considered a humiliation to accept a guarantee for £1,400,000 sterling in 1865 for the purpose of building fortifications, nor was it a humiliation to obtain £4,000,000 sterling upon a similar guarantee to construct the Intercolonial Railway. Why is it a humiliation then in this case to accept the guarantee when England voluntarily comes forward and accepts the responsibility for withdrawing our claims in respect to the Fenian raids? It was by no prompting from us that that responsibility was assumed, for Mr. Gladstone rose of his own motion in the House of Commons and accepting the responsibility admitted that it should take a tangible shape. It did take such a shape, and I say a most satisfactory shape, in the guarantee of £2,500,000 sterling immediately and we may say 4,000,000 pounds sterling in all, ultimately. (*Cheers.*)

But I hear it objected that Canada ought not to have made a bargain at all. She could have allowed the Fenian claims to go and dealt with the Treaty separately, accepting or rejecting it on its merits. Sir, Canada did not make a bargain of that kind, but she went fairly and openly to Her Majesty's Government and said: Here is a Treaty that has been negotiated through your influence and which affects important commercial interests in this country. It is