

with another. Why, Sir, what would be the result of commercial union? A barrier set upon the shores of this great Dominion against the whole outside world, whether it be Asiatic or European. We set up a barrier, and we say to the outside world: "You shall not trade with us, we are a people within ourselves, we can trade within ourselves, and we do not want you at all." What would be the result? Ships would be withdrawn from our shores, the trade of St. Lawrence would be diverted. In a short time Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, St. John and Toronto would disappear as commercial centres; all the ships crossing the Atlantic would come to New York city; the leading commercial houses would be there, and we would have none of that trade whatever. Why, Sir, we would be abandoned by the rest of the world. If we had a treaty to-morrow for unrestricted reciprocity or commercial union, that treaty would last just so long as it suited the American people, and no longer. The moment it ceased to suit them, they would then abandon that treaty, and might would be right with them, and we would be abandoned by the rest of the world. Besides that we would be a small people and they would swallow us up. Their invitation, if there is any, is the invitation of the spider to the fly; they will take us in and consume us, and then they are done with us. What does Mr. Hitt say?

"But we can at any time withdraw from commercial union if it works unfairly."

That is just what they are after, Mr. Speaker, they want to get us into a commercial union with them, and then, Sir, these combines that exist in the United States, both agricultural and manufacturing, would pour down their surplus upon us here for the purpose of extinguishing every ember of life in every industry in this country. Just as soon as they succeeded in extinguishing these, then the whole of the capital of this country would be transferred to the United States, and when they had all our artisans also on the other side of the lines, they would say: "We want your treaty no longer," and might would be made right in this case, as I have already said. Then in what position would we be placed? It would cost us to try the experiment—and it would be only an experiment—what? It would cost us about three hundred thousand artisans. What do three hundred thousand artisans mean to this country? Each one of those artisans and his family are worth to Canada at least \$1,000, and you can multiply three hundred thousand by one thousand dollars and find the cost. We would lose that to start with. We would also lose two hundred or two hundred and fifty millions of capital now invested in manufactures. And what would we lose besides? We would lose the respect of every right thinking man, not only in this country and in Great Britain, but every of honest, patriotic and right thinking man in the United States, who would look upon us with scorn and contempt. That is the situation in which our gentlemen opposite desire to place Canada. I repeat that this question