

letters not only had no tendency to prove conspiracy, but they disproved the existence even of concert. I repeat that the Wiman plot was a sheer fiction got up for an electioneering purpose by Sir John Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, and the organisers of their reptile press. It indicates nothing but the character and habits of the men on whose victory, gained by these means and by wholesale bribery, Lord Salisbury, breaking through the established impartiality of the Imperial Government, telegraphed his congratulations.

The last sentence of the paragraph charges certain persons unnamed with conduct which would be actually criminal. If I am included in the imputation I give it the most indignant and emphatic denial.

Instead of intriguing against the grant of commercial privileges to Canada with a view of forcing her into the Union, we Canadian Liberals have been and are doing our best to obtain for her the privileges of reciprocal trade with the United States.

There are other erroneous statements in the *Times* article and all of them on the same side. It is not the fact that Sir John Macdonald swept the field. His majority was reduced by one-half and his losses were in the great political Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Nor is it a fact that, as the *Times* would lead its readers to believe, Mr. Edward Blake retired from the Liberal leadership and from public life because he feared that the tendency of the Liberal policy was disloyal. His retirement was caused by the failure of his health and he had refused to vote with the bulk of the party for Mr. Mulock's "loyalty" resolution.

Canadian Liberals are ceasing to look for justice to England or to the British press. That we have been and are struggling against a system of government by corruption, ruinous to the character to our people is nothing. The system keeps the colony in the state of dutiful dependence. That seems to be enough. We are sometimes reminded of the language held by British Tories about "our colonists" on the eve of the American Revolution. Canadian Liberals are being forced to identify themselves with their own continent; a result to me not unwelcome though I could wish to see it brought about by happier means and without diminution of that filial feeling toward the Mother Country which is strong in my own heart and is perfectly compatible with a belief in the necessity of autonomy for the New World.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

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