

was treated by every person interested in these industries. The hon. gentleman has had his humiliation and has borne it. He has been relegated to the back-ground. He finds another—and I am glad the compliment was paid to a countryman of mine—made Finance Minister in his place. But in doing this, the deepest injury that could be inflicted upon a man who had fought the battles of his party as the hon. member for South Oxford had, is put upon him by compelling him to take third rank in the Administration and putting him behind a young man who had not even been in the Parliament of Canada before. But the hon. member for South Oxford has had his revenge. Though he spoke about a lean Cassius at my side, he was thinking of the lean Cassius at his own right hand. While his words came here, his eye rested upon the man who, in order to get power had pledged himself and had been pledged by his friends in the most emphatic terms, that if the Liberals were returned to power Sir Richard should never be Finance Minister. Though he has been relegated to a back seat, he had the ability, the power, the influence, to treat his colleagues as a parcel of children. He has been able to inflict upon his leader the direst disgrace that one man could inflict upon another. Let me read what the hon. First Minister said to the people of Montreal and then ask what is that hon. gentleman's position here to-day. As lately as the 22nd of January, 1896, before the last election. Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, speaking at Montreal, said :

We are told that we must not destroy the manufactures of Montreal. I say that we are not going to destroy the industries of Montreal. I contend, on the contrary, that the application of the ideas that we defend will inaugurate an era of prosperity such as Montreal has not known since the inauguration of the National Policy. The present system raises a maximum of taxation, not only on the consumer, but also on the producer. They have a tax on iron, which is a raw material of every industry. The tax on coal, which is also a raw material of every industry, is 60 cents a ton. Although I have not the latest quotations of coal, I am sure that this tax is equivalent to 40 per cent. Now, I am asked, What are you going to do? I have just told you what we are going to do. We are going to have a tariff for revenue, and we are going to abolish completely the duties on raw material.

Where is the hon. gentleman to-day? Upon this solemn declaration of his, the manufacturers of Montreal gave him support. This declaration paralyzed the manufacturing industries all over Canada and prevented them giving support to the men to whom they owed the position they occupy. In the face of a declaration of that kind, where does the hon. First Minister stand when the hon. gentleman for South Oxford rises and declares that he has inaugurated a complete system of free trade. How a complete system of free trade? The hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) has caused them to commit themselves to this senseless, unpatriotic—I

might almost use a stronger word—policy, and now they find themselves in such a position that they have but one resource. And the hon. gentleman knew it right well. I presume he was the only one who knew it. If the hon. First Minister has said what he believed and the hon. Finance Minister has said what he believed, neither of them knew it. But the hon. member for South Oxford knew it, and knew that he had them in a trap. Should not the Governor General do what he may and what, but for the past, I would have no doubt he would do, exercise the right that the Governor of any colony in the British Empire would use, and withhold the Royal assent from an Act that introduces a discriminating tariff, what will the position of hon. gentlemen opposite be? Let the Governor General do his duty, and what happens? Sir, the country is already thrown into inextricable confusion, and there is no resource but the disallowance of the Bill. I am not going at this late hour to take up the time of the House, but I could turn to the constitution of the country to show how the Governor General exercises the power of reservation. By turning to that eminent authority on these questions which Dr. Bourinot has placed before the country, I could show that although the absolute compulsion to withhold assent has been withdrawn, it is only because it is held that the power of disallowance retained by the Imperial Government under the circumstances renders its exercise by the Governor General a matter of less moment. But the hon. gentleman will find by referring to these authorities that if the Governor General does not reserve this Act, as every Governor, I think, throughout the British Empire would reserve it, if it came before him, he is bound by his duty to forward that Act the moment it is passed, to England for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government; and hon. gentlemen opposite know that within twenty-four hours of that Act being laid upon the Table of the Colonial Minister, it would be disallowed, and the collection of the revenue of this country thrown into confusion. The hon. member for South Oxford knew it all, he saw it all; and no man could listen to him standing there to-day and gloating over the position in which the Government is placed, and the party were placed, without feeling that he had his revenge. Why, Sir, what was his position? He was able to stand on the floor of this House to-day and tell the hon. gentlemen supporting the Government, and tell this House, that he had secured free trade in all its entirety. Why, Sir, the hon. gentleman knows that the only means by which the Government can now extricate themselves from the dilemma in which they are placed, is to bring down an additional clause extending all these privileges that they propose to give to England, to Belgium and Germany and to every other country that has most-favoured nation treatment. They know that when, only two years ago, it was at-