

that they were possessed like certain prototypes of theirs who are recorded to have charged down a steep place into the sea. Perceiving no apparent cause for their desperate hurry, I asked my driver what was the reason. Whereupon he replied that these pigs were very sagacious animals. They had been rooting and gruhhing in the muck along the shore all day, and now they scented the incoming tide and that was the reason of all this squealing and galloping.

THEN I UNDERSTOOD

Which things are an allegory. And if any man here or elsewhere objects to my metaphor, let me remind him that it is precisely the metaphor which that famous statesman and philanthropist, Sir John Macdonald, made use of on a certain memorable occasion in this very city when addressing divers other eminent philanthropists, he likened himself to a boy up a tree shaking down acorns for the benefit of the animals below, and intimated that there was reciprocity in all things, and that the time had come when the boy should be considered. So said, so done. Very little time was lost in signing that reciprocity pact, as I discovered to my cost in the general election which followed shortly after.

And now, gentlemen, I propose first of all to analyze the reasons and so-called arguments brought forward against our proposal by our opponents, then to review the character of its advocates and enemies both here and in the United States; after that, with your permission, I will indulge in a brief history of the various attempts which have been made by both parties to secure reciprocity; and lastly, I will lay before you the reasons which have induced the present Government to advise the acceptance of this agreement.

PURELY PUERILE—PURELY SELFISH

As to the reasons of our opponents, they may be divided into two classes—one, the purely puerile, and the other the purely selfish. And first, of all let us consider the charge of disloyalty so freely preferred against us. Sir, in olden times the famous Dr. Johnson defined patriotism as being the last refuge of a scoundrel. If Dr. Johnson were alive and resident in Canada to-day, I make no doubt he would have struck out the word patriotism and substituted loyalty. Now I would not have you suppose that either Dr. Johnson or myself had the slightest desire to deprecate the virtues of loyalty or patriotism either. All that he meant and all that I mean is simply this, that just because these are noble and elevating virtues, men who trade in these sentiments for their own personal or political advantage are least deserving of our respect.

And here let me say that I hold it to be the proudest boast of the people of Ontario that alone of all British colonies they can allege with truth that they were founded and kept by a body of men who did not come here seeking to promote their own personal advantage, but men who had risked their lives and sacrificed their fortunes rather than forswear their allegiance to the British Empire. No man can revere the memory of these men more than myself, and no man more than myself has a better right to do so.