

before England and the world a loyal, happy and strong, because united people. (Cheers).

Hon Mr. REESOR—On a question of so much importance I think it only fair that an expression of opinion should be given by the members of this House. The position taken by the former speakers in this debate appears to me to be one assumed by a large number of members in both branches of the Legislature, and is evidently influenced in a great measure by a desire to yield to the express wishes of the Home Government. I can fully sympathize with those who express that wish; but at the same time we must all feel that this Dominion has certain rights and privileges which require consideration, and ought not to be overlooked, notwithstanding our attachment to the Parent State. The responsibility of the Dominion Government in the settlement of this question, I believe, goes further than some hon. gentlemen would seem to think. They appear to throw the whole responsibility upon the British Government; but reading over the correspondence on this question we find that Canada was represented upon the Commission. As the First Minister of the Crown was appointed on the Commission, we have reason to say that the Government of Canada had a certain responsibility in the action and decision of that Commission. In all the despatches relating to the appointment of the Commission we find it expressly stated that "Canada will be represented." And this was carried out by the appointment of the Premier of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald. Now as respects the course pursued by the Canadian representative upon the Commission, I know that it has the approval of a large majority in one branch, and will probably obtain the sympathy of this House as well. The responsibility is therefore in a great measure shifted off his shoulders to those of the people of this country. I quite concur with the remarks that have been made by previous speakers as to the injustice that has been done to Canada in ignoring the Fenian claims. Earl Granville in the first of his letters of instructions to the High Commissioners intimates that among the subjects to be discussed will be "the claims of the people of Canada on account of the Fenian raids." It is to be regretted that not only have our claims in this particular been overlooked, but that we have no sufficient guarantee in the Treaty itself against like occurrences in the future. One cannot help being impressed with the idea that had the Commissioners exhibited half as

much determination to have a settlement of these Fenian claims, as the British Government has shown since the question of "consequential damages" came up, the United States Government would have yielded and adjusted the matter to our satisfaction. Now it is said that the Maritime representatives sanction this Treaty, and that their approval shows the merits of the measure. But it must be remembered that this is a Dominion question, and cannot be considered in a purely provincial or sectional aspect. No one denies that certain interests in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are benefited by the Treaty, but at the same time we see that no adequate compensation has been given to the whole Dominion for what it sacrifices under the measure. The value of the products of the Dominion that find a market in the States amounts to something like twenty seven millions of dollars; and all these commodities, or nearly all, pay a large duty. If the duty were removed, we would be gainers probably to the extent of some four or five millions of dollars. I remember well when the Reciprocity Treaty was repealed, there was immediately a decline in the price of certain exports of Canada, amounting to 25 or 30 per cent, in cattle, sheep, peas, barley, and other grains that had found a large sale in the United States. Taking into consideration all the circumstances, it seems to me that we concede too much and receive too little, simply because England is deeply anxious to have a great difficulty of her own immediately settled. I think we do wrong if against our convictions of what is right, against the convictions of the Government of Canada as set forth in strong terms in their Minutes of Council, we allowed a measure of this kind to pass by general assent. We ought to express our opinions frankly, and show that we are not insensible to the wrong inflicted upon us. It is not by conceding everything that is asked, we can have justice done to us. It is for Canada to stand out for her just rights, otherwise she will never secure them. The Home Government has been considering this question with a regard to Imperial interests alone. I do not say that it has been utterly regardless of Canada, but I believe it has not been in a position to understand what was the best for the interests of this country. It is for us, when the opportunity is given under this Bill, to remonstrate strongly against the injustice that has been done, and prove to Great Britain what sacrifices we are called upon to make at her demand and for Imperial considerations.