

try to discriminate against Great Britain; a gentleman who a few years ago poked ridicule at our Canadian volunteers who went to the front when the Fenians invaded our shores; a gentleman who only a few years ago thought it necessary in his speech in this House, to mention 154 times the necessity of getting the market of the United States and discriminating against Great Britain. They are said by the same gentleman who only a few years ago kindly wrote a letter to the Ways and Means Committee of the United States Senate, telling them that their tariff was not as effective as against Canada as it might be, and pointing out the methods by which the United States of America could bring Canada to her knees. No better illustration has ever taken place in this House of the truth of that old poem:

While the lamp holds out to burn,  
The vilest sinner may return.

We are glad of it. We are especially glad of it because the hon. gentleman in the old days expressed sentiments that were not likely to do Canada any good. But let me tell the Prime Minister that the hon. gentleman's earnest advocacy of this policy last night is not likely to impress the people of the province from which I come as to the Canadianism of that policy; for I submit, Sir, that knowing the opinions expressed by the member for North Norfolk in the past, the people of Ontario will have a very grave suspicion as to the Canadianism of any policy that is enthusiastically supported by that hon. gentleman, and they have very good reason for that suspicion. Only two or three months ago we had a case tried in the courts of the province of Ontario. It was a case against the province of Ontario brought by the lumbermen of Michigan, who hoped to compel the government of that province to pay some millions of dollars damages for the adoption of a Canadian policy—which, I may say by the way, was forced upon them by Mr. Whitney and his followers; and when that case came for trial, the first man whom the Michigan lumbermen put in the box to prove their contention and to rob the treasury of the province of Ontario was the member for North Norfolk. The hon. gentleman pushes his Canadianism when it costs him nothing; he does not push it when it costs him something. A few years ago we were discussing in this House the question of reciprocity in wrecking, and the hon. member for North Norfolk was opposed to it, while being in favour of every other kind of reciprocity; and during the debate it was established that the why and the wherefore of the hon. gentleman's Canadianism was the fact that he himself possessed a wrecking plant which would have been interfered with had reciprocity in wrecking been established between the two countries.

**Mr. MONTAGUE.**

**Mr. MILLS.** And it worked on Sundays, too.

**Mr. MONTAGUE.** The hon. gentleman surely must have reason for his Canadianism and his support of the government policy on the present occasion; and I see it suggested in the press that his reason is not an unselfish one. We hear that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce has gone away for his health, and perhaps it occurs to the mind of the hon. member for North Norfolk that by giving that humble and humiliating support to the government of the day, by reaching to expertness in the use of those vinegar-steeped adjectives which have characterized the speeches of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) for many years, and by making himself a very good second of the hon. member for South Oxford, in the science of the acrobat profession, he may take the place of the Minister of Trade and Commerce in the government. The hon. gentleman brought forward some arguments to which I shall refer as I deal with the subjects in their proper order, and I venture to say that they will cause no little surprise to the members of the House who had not the pleasure of listening to him last night. When the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce addressed the House the other evening, in that modest manner of his, to which we are accustomed, he chided the ex-Minister of Finance for want of knowledge, want of ability, and took occasion to say that the ex-Minister of Finance had occupied fifty-five mortal pages of *Hansard*. Well, Sir, it is an extraordinary coincidence that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce occupied exactly fifty-five pages himself. Evidently knowing that in quality his speech was inferior to that of the ex-Minister of Finance, he struggled—and Heaven knows the House will never forget how hard he struggled—to supply in quantity what it lacked in quality, and to reach the fifty-five page limit. He stated to the ex-Minister of Finance that there was a very well-known declaration in the sacred book that we should hereafter have to give an account of every idle word used in this life. The hon. gentleman's caution must come home to himself, and I do not think that his chances, upon his final examination, will be the better for the reason of his having attributed to Solomon what belongs to Job. And if the hon. gentleman were here, I would like to give him, in view of the immodest exhibition which he made of his own opinion that he possessed great and superior knowledge, another quotation from his favourite author, words used when Job said to the men who bored him by the tendering of their advice: 'No doubt ye are the people and wisdom will die with you.'

Well, the hon. gentleman went on to give a poetical quotation, which was intended: