

with language of this sort. You want to look at the kernel of the matter. Of course we pass it by, as I think Lord Granville intended us to pass it by, as a little bit, perhaps, it may be, of transatlantic style of writing. It is not the style of writing I hope we shall adopt. We passed it by, and we went really to the root of the matter. Now the root of the matter in their proposal was that they said, "It is utterly impossible we can recognise any claim of these gentlemen to anything at all, but if you do wish to buy them off as a troublesome set of individuals who have got possession of your territory, and of whom you want to get rid, but cannot get out without a troublesome lawsuit, you had better compromise, and if you do it at all the utmost we could give would be £106,000, and if they object to take that, we call upon Lord Granville to advise the Queen to transfer all this dominion to Canada, subject to the rights of the Company." Now the Canadians, I have no doubt, knew what they were about when they said that, because it would be perfectly competent for Lord Granville, or for the Crown if it were pleased, to transfer the territory to Canada, subject to the rights of the Company, and the Company might be said to be protected in its rights, but of course we should have some difficulty in dealing with our masters in that case, our rights not having been recognised and established, and we should be subjected to all the incidents which a body handed over to a sovereign power are subject to; that is to say, we should be subject to taxation and everything else, without any power or right on our part to remonstrate. We should have our land, but we should be subject to taxation. Then, that being the case, we replied to Lord Granville, and told him we could not possibly suppose that the Government would commit such an act of injustice as to hand us over without taking security for our rights; and that with regard to this sum of money it was, of course, obviously inadequate. We,