

everywhere interspersed with quotations from Smith, Ricardo, and other writers upon political economy. They would be classed by gentlemen opposite among the visionary and speculative members whose habits of mind excluded them from the domain of practical statesmanship. I know, Sir, that hon. gentlemen on that side look with contemptuous pity on that deluded nation across the Atlantic, with which we are politically united. They turn away with loathing from the expository and argumentative statements made by those incompetent and imbecile men, such as Sir Robert Peel, Sir G. C. Lewis, Mr. Cobden and Mr. Gladstone, by whom the people of Great Britain have been blindly guided for a third of a century. These gentlemen declare they dislike political economy; that Butler understands questions of finance better than Gladstone, and that the political atmosphere of Washington is more invigorating than that at Westminster. We must not, upon the fiscal policy of this country, think for ourselves. That, Sir, would be presumptuous. Standing with our heads uncovered, we will not dissent from the superior wisdom of our august neighbours. They are wise. We will walk in their footsteps. We will imitate Congress. Whatever they do at Washington, at Ottawa we must do likewise. Gentlemen opposite mingle menace with worship, bluster with adulation. To this the Premier has educated his party. I congratulate him on his success. Let us see from what and to what the Tory party have been led. Sir, we all remember the great Civil War in the United States. We know, in one-half of that Republic, four millions of human beings were held as property. That war became a struggle for freedom upon the one side, and for oppression upon the other. The hon. leader and his party, true to their party instincts, took the side of the oppressors,—for what people or what cause ever had the sympathy of that party unless they or it were opposed to freedom and to progress? Every success of Southern arms was cheered. To emancipate the poor negro was regarded as a calamity. And above all things, and before all things, they desired that the mighty Republic, which had stood for ninety years a visible testimony

to the capacity of man for self-government, should be broken up. They were doomed to disappointment. The spirit of freedom was unchained by the execution of John Brown. It called all the North to arms, and the Northern volunteers marched to the battle field to the music of his name. The South was subdued. The Union was restored. Slavery perished. The cause of popular freedom triumphed. During the struggle of the Civil War high taxes were imposed. The spirit of avarice followed in the footsteps of the spirit of freedom. Abuses grew up. Oppressive monopolies were established. Rings were formed as powerful in the State as were the great barons of the mediæval period. There was now another system of servitude only less hateful than the one Providence had forced the nation to destroy. Well, Sir, this was something with which the Tory party could sympathise; and the Government, which fifteen years ago, was an object of insult, has committed a folly that has made it an object of worship. We see the Tory party, in changing the language of abuse and insult for the language of praise, have not travelled very far. Upon questions of trade and taxation our American neighbours lag far behind the statesmen of the United Kingdom. The hon. the Premier and his party dislike this onward march of Fatherland. It wearies them. It may be sweet to dream of the sea-girt isle; but on the whole they prefer the company of those in the rear. Their island home is far beyond the wave, and the profound thoughts, wise maxims and generous sentiments of her statesmen, which, for a time, were stumbling blocks, have now become foolishness to gentlemen opposite. They have fallen in with another people by the way, for whom they have learned to entertain the highest admiration. The hon. gentleman, in his educating process, has, in some respects, metamorphosed the Tory party. We remember the Tory of former years, who loudly proclaimed his resolution to stand by a united Empire at all hazards. He was a wholly different person from your Tory whose loyalty is measured by 35 per cent., your dealer in pinch-beck and the second-hand clothing of Congress, who is ready to stand by his own pocket if given a share of the contents of his