

form on which he appealed to the electors of Nova Scotia. However, I do not think any hon. gentleman in this House will be inclined to lessen the censure, or feel less indignation over the attitude of Mr. Fielding in Nova Scotia on the plea that he was not sincere in fact, it would only make the matter worse. But that is not all: a gentleman who has been honoured very much by the present administration—who took the place of the leader of the opposition on the Cable Conference, once demanded that the British flag be pulled down on Citadel Hill, Halifax. But it is in regard to a more recent matter—the unrestricted reciprocity or commercial union cry that Conservatives honestly and fairly, as I believe, charged their opponents with disloyalty in the years gone by. We know that question was put forward as a platform by the party. I believe my hon. friend who leads this House never identified himself with that movement. He was too wise, too shrewd and too loyal to do so, and notwithstanding the censure of my hon. friend, the seconder of the address, the public were justified in drawing the inference, from the position of the Liberal party on the question of commercial union, that they were drifting into disloyal positions. I refer also to the remarkable speech made by the present premier in Boston in 1891. He was tendered a banquet in Boston and he made a very remarkable speech there. He was reported in the Boston newspapers and the reports referred to were quoted in the House of Commons afterwards.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—And Mr. Laurier denied them.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Mr. Laurier denied the correctness of the American reports, but he said the *Toronto Globe* contained a fair report of what he had said on that occasion. Mr. Kenny of Halifax, charged him with the utterance as quoted in the United States newspapers. Mr. Laurier replied “I did not see those reports, but the *Toronto Globe* contains a report for which I am responsible.” I shall now read an extract from the report in the *Globe*. It is as follows:

In my opinion the conduct of England, of Canada towards the United States during the war was a disgrace to the civilization of England, of Canada. The American people could fight their own battles, they required no help, but when they were engaged

in the supreme struggle for the life or death of this great nation, when they were fighting for a cause as great, as holy, as ever engaged the devotion of men when they had reason to expect the outspoken sympathy of those nearest to them, it was galling that Southern privateers could be manned, built and equipped in England with the tacit connivance of the British government to destroy American commerce on the high seas. It was galling that rebel refugees could find shelter in Canada, and there with impunity and without provoking condemnation plot abominable crimes against secession.

I have no hesitation in saying that it was a very improper speech for the leader of a great party, a Canadian statesman, to make in a foreign country. I remember very well myself—I was old enough to take a very great interest in the questions which arose during the civil war in the United States—that in Canada, although we had many sympathisers for the Southern states who were the weaker party, and for whom the hearts of many of the Canadian people went out as they naturally did to the weaker party in the struggle—but nevertheless the fact remained and was undeniable that the great majority of the Canadian people rather sympathized with the north than with the south in that struggle. I am able to sustain my recollection by the language of a very eminent man who knew the feeling of Canada well on that occasion, and who spoke shortly after the close of the war at Detroit—I refer to the Hon. Mr. Howe, perhaps the most distinguished man that Nova Scotia has ever produced. On that occasion he said:

It is something to be able to say that during the four long disastrous years of war, just ended, not a single act of which complaint could be made has been committed by a Canadian. Notwithstanding the false reports that were circulated, I do not believe there was a single intelligent citizen of my province at least, who did not believe that the capture of the Chesapeake off the coast of Maine by rebellious citizens of the United States was nothing less or more than an act of piracy. And so of the St. Albans raid. The government of Canada acted most promptly and nobly in connection with that affair, and has repaid the money which rebellious citizens of the United States had carried into their territory from the States banks. As to their harbouring the rebels and of extending to them the right of asylum, is there a single American here who would have his government surrender that right! There was not an Englishman nor an Irishman nor a Scotchman nor an American who would not fight three wars rather than give up that sacred right.

At six o'clock the debate was adjourned.

The Senate then adjourned.