

it was a struggle for the abolition of slavery, and we looked more at the real question at issue than almost any country. Under the idea of protecting a great imperial right, the British Government keep the fisheries under their control, but we are allowed to give the Americans permission to take the fish if they pay small tonnage dues which we will not get; for the Americans take the fish and we have no means of preventing them. The duty on mackerel taken to the United States is two dollars per barrel; and on potatoes one shilling and six pence per bush.—more than a hundred per cent. on the first cost, which is a prohibitive duty. Very few cargoes will glut the markets of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and we can find no sale for the remainder. England has given us a good market for oats during the last few years, but now the means of transit are being developed in the interior countries of Europe, and these countries are supplying the British market. The consequence is, the price of oats is now coming down, and the merchants who have bought up oats during the winter will lose a great deal. The Imperial Government will not give us control of the fisheries, which are no benefit to them, but would be a great boon to us. I think we should ask the Imperial Government to give us leave to protect the fishery if they will not do it. The fact is, the British Government are not pleased with us—they conceived that we should enter confederation, and the people of this Island thought differently. They could not see any inducement to join the Dominion, for there was no market for our produce in Canada; and I think the British Government are thwarting our wishes in this respect, to induce us to accept terms from the Canadians, and link our destinies with theirs.

Mr. REILLY.—I must say that the hon. member for Cascumpec, (Mr. Bell,) has exactly given my views on free trade. It appears that he is well read on the matter, for he has very clear ideas upon it. There was one potent reason why the United States moved for the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, and that was, that their financial condition was such that it was necessary to exclude foreign productions from the country, unless the latter paid a heavy duty; because it was of the first importance to protect their own resources, which were heavily taxed. But as the people of the United States are now willing to enter into a new treaty, there should be nothing to prevent this Colony's taking advantage of the offer. I feel convinced, in looking over the question, that there is nothing unreasonable in our asking for free trade with that country; the only difference between parties in this Colony in regard to it was, that one side thought it desirable to offer information and to show their willingness to enter into free trade, while the other party were opposed to our having anything to say in the matter at all, but thought we should let the Dominion of Canada speak for us, and that the latter should ask the opinion of the Imperial authorities in regard to it. Although the chief

Ministers of Great Britain are great statesmen, the people of this Colony are in a better position to judge of their own wants than any Colonial Minister. It is our duty, therefore, to put forth all our energies in favor of free trade with the United States. There are many things which entitle us to the consideration of the Imperial Authorities in obtaining the so-much-wished-for treaty; among the most prominent of these was the granting away of our lands by the British Government. The great obstacle of our obtaining a separate treaty is the fact that the fisheries are the common property of all the British North American Colonies; and that, therefore, we have no right to use these fisheries for our advantage, alone. If the Imperial government would allow us the right to give the people of the United States the right to fish in the waters surrounding our Island alone, instead of receiving a paltry amount, as we now do, into our treasury, we should receive, indirectly, thousands of pounds—we should have the markets of the United States opened to our productions. I agree with the hon. Leader of the Government when he says that he cannot see why, for the sake of two hundred pounds, the United States should receive the advantages of our fisheries, while we do not receive the advantages of free trade. The people of this Colony are placed in a curious position; we see our fisheries robbed and the power to obtain free trade in return, taken away. The great difference between parties here was that one side wished to make an effort to obtain free trade, while the other side wished the Dominion to make that effort.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN.—We are going to have the most important debate of the Session, at its close. I may remark, without attempting to argue on either Annexation or Confederation, that we should not be trying to throw cold water on the United States, on account of their not being under the British Flag. We, as a Province, did not defend the action of the Northern section of the United States during the late war with the South, nor did any of the other Provinces; and this was partly the reason why the late treaty was broken off. For my own part, I do not agree with those people who would delight in the breaking up of a great nation, speaking the same language as we do, and enjoying the same free and liberal institutions. I am not of the opinion that it would, for a moment, tend to assist the civilization of the world, or add to Britain's glory; on the contrary, I believe that Great Britain and the United States of America are two great powers which are destined to protect the flag of liberty among all the nations of the globe. And, when I recollect that the great blot on the people of the latter country was slavery, and that the question of emancipation was, for many years, agitated in England before she could free herself from the same foul blot, I am astonished that the people of Great Britain and her Colonies should, for one moment, sympathize with the cause of the South against the