

assure the charming ladies present, are to Englishmen very dangerous people. It is not so much their beauty, because we can manage that, but it is the peculiar cuteness and slyness which they invariably exhibit. Well, this lady said to my friend, "I guess I will tell you a story that you cannot answer." "Oh," said he, "I do not think you can. I am an Englishman with a peculiar faculty for unfolding riddles." "Well," said the lady, "I will give it you. I met a little boy, and I said to him, 'Have you a father?' 'No,' he said, 'I never had none.' 'Have you got a mother?' 'No,' I never had none.' 'Have you got any brothers and sisters?' 'Oh, lots of brothers and sisters.' Now," said the lady, "what is the answer to that?" Well, my friend scratched his head, and knocked his forehead about for an hour or two (laughter), and at length he said, "Well, for the first time in my life I must give it up." "Oh," said the lady, "It is very simple; think again." "Oh, I cannot make it out at all," said the Englishman. "Why," said the lady, "It is very simple, as I told you. The fact was,—the little boy lied." (Much laughter.)

Now, Mr. Chairman, to be serious for a moment. When I am attacked by people for whom I have a contempt it does not come home to me at all; but when I am attacked, as I think, unjustly and unkindly, by constituents for whom I have the highest respect, I confess that it does hurt my feelings. I know it has been stated in the public papers that I have said that the views of the thoughtful and intelligent portion of the constituent body were in favour of my votes, and that my statement led to the most ungrateful and ungraceful inference,—that therefore the minority who did not agree with my votes were neither intelligent nor thoughtful. Now, I beg to say that I never meant—I never said—and I never could have said or meant, any reflection upon these gentlemen (thoughtful and intelligent as they are) who have not entirely agreed with that which I have done; and I take this earliest opportunity of saying that I do not think it was a generous thing to suppose that I could for a moment have assumed that because gentlemen of education and position did not take the exact view with regard to certain questions discussed in Parliament that I took, forming a portion as they did of the great intelligence and thoughtfulness of the borough, they must be unintelligent and unthoughtful. Now, I have been told that I have