

Other prominent members of the political party were shown to have entertained similar views, and to have labored not only at home but in Washington to give effect to them. They form but a small section of the party; but they fixed a stigma upon it at the same time that they opened the eyes of the world to the inevitable end of the policy of which they were the ardent advocates. The election was fought on the issue of loyalty to the British connection, and the great mass of the Liberal electorate had to cast its votes under the disadvantage of an annexation cry, with which it had as little real sympathy as its opponents. As a weapon of electoral attack Sir John Macdonald could have desired nothing more effective than the discovery of the so-called Winman conspiracy, by which it was shown that men holding the position of leaders of public opinion in Canada had made themselves vehicles of advice given to the Government of Washington to refuse to grant the advantages desired by the Dominion in order that she might be forced to accept the alternative of an annexation."

I addressed no public meeting at all, nor did I take any active part in the election, though I avowed my hearty sympathy with those who were fighting against monopoly and corruption. I have never belonged to either of the party organizations. The near coincidence of the first of three lectures delivered by me to the Young Men's Liberal Club with the dissolution of Parliament was accidental, no notice of the dissolution having been given at the time when the lecture was arranged. The writer knows the truth, and he disguises it for the obvious purpose of connecting the cause of the Liberal party with what he imagines to be my unpopular opinions. No battle-cry was raised by the Liberal party or by any section of it except those of free trade with the United States and opposition to government by corruption. What could have compelled or induced the party and its leaders to allow a battle-cry with which they had no real sympathy to be imposed on them by a small section or as the *Times* in another paragraph puts it by "a few fanatics?" The words given as a quotation from me are not mine, nor do they fairly represent what I said. But the sting of the paragraph lies in its calumnious assumption of the reality of "the Winman plot;" an alleged conspiracy, as the writer proceeds to explain, between Liberal leaders in Canada and American statesmen, for the purpose of forcing Canada into the Union by the denial of commercial advantages. That plot had no more real existence than the plot which made the fortune of Titus Oates, whom its inventors rivaled in veracity. *The Times* may