

withdrawal. (Cheers.) Mr. Howland, with a very different spirit, did meet his political friends, and submitted the matter to their consideration. After mature thought they agreed to sustain him; and I believe myself that, to a man, they thought he was right. In the meantime, however, great difficulties and great injury to the interests of this country may have arisen from a misapprehension of our present condition. The Government have very important measures under their consideration: the enlargement of the canals, the opening up of the North-West, as well as the Confederation of these great Provinces;—measures approved by men of all shades of political policy, by all classes of the country; and we therefore should not fail to reflect before taking a course that may not only affect the reciprocal trade relations between the United States and this country, but by upsetting that government destroy the prospect of carrying out these important measures. (Hear, hear.) Furthermore, it is a question that involves so many important considerations and so many points already touched upon, that at this period of the evening I really think I shall be intruding on your patience. (Cries of "go on, go on.") Upon the subject of reciprocity I do think every one in Canada will admit that it is the interest of this country seriously to consider our position and our trade relations with the United States, before we cast aside that matter, disregard everything relating to it, and at once state in the teeth of the American people that we will have nothing to do with them, and that we can live without them, however true this may or may not be. It is not an easy matter to change a part of the trade relations of a country, involving more than one-half of its foreign trade in one year or one month; and I do think the Government have acted wisely in endeavoring to renew the arrangements we have had while maintaining the integrity and independence of this country. I believe it was our duty, consistently with our honor and self-respect, to do everything we possibly could to secure freedom of trade with the Americans, whether by treaty or whether as a mere temporary arrangement, by legislation. After doing all that a people can do, and failing in that, we should strike out a course for ourselves. (Applause.) I believe, Sir, this country does not need to depend upon the United States. I believe that we have immense wealth, and that we shall be able to maintain a separate commercial existence, and to flourish independently. (Cheers.) Now, in reference to my political belief, I believe that this is not considered a political meeting. There is a sentiment expressed in the motto on the wall that actuated the people of this part of the country in bringing the Government together here, viz., "British America united forever;" and I say forever let us stand by our colors, be true to our country, and success will surely attend us. Mr. McGiverin resumed his seat amidst loud applause.

Mr. AULT, M.P.P. for Stormont, responded.

Hon. Mr. McGEE then proposed "The Mayor and Town Council of Cornwall," to which Dr. ALLAN responded in fitting terms.

He next proposed, in a witty speech, "The Ladies,"—responded to by Mr. R. MACFARLANE, Secretary to the Committee.