

Then, the hon. gentleman, in the speech at St. Vincent de Paul, tried to strengthen his own position by libelling the greatest statesman that Canada has ever known, the late Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. He endeavoured to cloak himself by showing that that right hon. gentleman had taken a position of antagonism to this general feeling on the part of the Canadian people. I say nothing of myself, for that is a matter of comparatively little moment. But this statement of the hon. gentleman with regard to Sir John Macdonald is as libellous a statement as could be uttered. When he made that statement, he made it in the face of the fact that no man ever lived in Canada with stronger Imperial instincts than the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. In the very first hour of his public life, he made the declaration that he regarded the continued connection of Canada with the British Empire of the most sovereign moment and that he would insist upon it and contend for it throughout his public career. And, Sir, true to his declaration, he ultimately sacrificed his life in a struggle against hon. gentlemen opposite and the policy they had adopted, which would have resulted in the severance of Canada's connection with the empire. He marshalled his hosts to resist what hon. gentlemen opposite sought, and he roused the people of Canada to enthusiasm for the cause he loved by his impassioned declaration 'a British subject I was born, a British subject I will die.' He fell in that struggle. His life was sacrificed to the anxiety and care which, in his weakened state and at his advanced age, this memorable campaign imposed upon him. But he was victorious in this struggle; he did not fall until he had planted securely upon the ramparts of his country the standard which meant 'British connection for ever.' Sir, how dare the Minister of Public Works libel that eminent Canadian statesman now that he is in his grave? On the record stood this memorable declaration from him made in 1884. Addressing a public meeting in Toronto in that year, Sir John Macdonald said:

Great is the future of the British Empire, that empire of which we are a component part, and to which we hope to be attached for ever and for ever. We are passionately loyal to the sovereignty of Great Britain. We love our Queen and we love British institutions. We draw our inspiration from the great men who have governed England and who are now governing England, and we believe and know that our future prosperity depends greatly upon the continuance of union with the mother country. The Australian colonies will soon be united in a bond similar to, though not identical with, the Canadian confederation. Then what shall we see? We shall see England, with her thirty-five millions, united to Canada with her five millions, soon to become twice that number, and to Australia with a similar population, and the world will know that if the old mother country is attacked she has two auxiliary nations stand-

ing at her back and bound to make common cause with her. It has been said we are running great risks in venturing to make common cause with England. Gentlemen, if I know the people of Canada aright, they are willing to run those risks. But there really is no risk. When any foreign nation knows that the thirty-five million people in England and the twenty millions in the different colonies, forming one great nation, will exert all their military and naval power in one common cause, that fact will prevent possible war with England, and England will be in a complete moral domination of the world as was the Roman Empire in the days of old. But we are not, as I said before, going to count the cost. Who can look back to the time when the Crimean war broke out and not remember with pride how Canada rose as one man to stand by the mother country and by France when the French tri-colour and the Union Jack were joined together fighting the battles of liberty against absolutism on the shores of the Crimea? There was a rush of Canadians to get to the battle-field, and I had the great pleasure, as a member of the government of Sir Allan MacNab, to be instrumental in carrying a vote of £20,000 given unanimously out of the public treasury in order to show that Canada made common cause with England and with France in the Crimean war.

This is the most complete and thorough refutation of this libel upon that great man's memory—or attempted libel rather.

I do not intend to detain the House any more than I am obliged to, for I know how painful it is to my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) when any reference to myself is made. But I may say that, in the speech to the Tyneside Geographical Society on November 21, 1895, I said:

The past history of Canada warrants the belief that one of the first things for which they (the fast Atlantic steamers) would be utilized would be to carry brave Canadian volunteers to any part of the world where the honour and interests of this empire were threatened. . . . Is the past action of Canada not sufficient to prove that she is not insensible to the responsibility that devolves upon her as a component part of this great empire, and that in future, as in the past, she will be always found ready to discharge her duty to the utmost extent of her ability. . . . A short time ago, when there were threatenings in the East, I was directed to place a regiment of Royal Canadian infantry at the service of the Imperial government to be maintained by Canada.

I may say that these are the terms in which I pressed the acceptance of Col. Williams's proposition:

London, February 9, 1885.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit, for the information of the Earl of Derby—

—Then Colonial Minister—

—a copy of a telegram received from Colonel Arthur Williams, M.P., of Port Hope, Canada, commanding the 46th East Durham (Ontario) battalion of infantry, placing his services and