

an appropriation for the construction of the Niagara ship canal by which vessels of large size may be sent through from American waters into the Canadian lakes and for fortifications on the frontier. Again, the treaty under which only a small armament was allowed on the lakes was to be immediately abrogated on the motion of the American Government. Then, again, there was the question of so vitally affected the people of British North America—the Reciprocity Treaty. (He then continued in reference to the latter subject.)

THE RECIPROcity TREATY.

Under that treaty, whilst the trade of British North America has been increased and improved, it has been infinitely much more beneficial to the commerce of the United States.—Under the fostering influence of that treaty, the trade between British America and the States suddenly sprung in four years from fifteen to sixty million of dollars. Whilst it has been in the highest degree useful and advantageous to the commerce and advancement of these British North American Provinces, yet the balance of trade has been largely in favor of the States. And who is there that does not know the great importance that keen and sagacious people attach to anything that will extend their commerce and improve their trade? But despite all that—although the Boards of Trade at New York, Detroit, and elsewhere, have made the most energetic appeals against the abolition of the treaty, the Board of Trade at Detroit actually demonstrating to their government that since the commencement of the treaty, the balance of trade has been \$162,000,000 in their favor—notwithstanding all that, under the influence of that spirit which I deeply regret to see exhibited, notice for the abolition of the treaty has been given. Not only so, but it is conclusively shown that it is not the intention of the American Government to enter into any negotiations for the continuance of the treaty. A few days ago I laid on the table of this house a remarkable document. The treaty provides that there shall be a joint commission under it—yet while the treaty must remain in force for another year, Mr. Stewart has demanded that the commission be immediately closed. It is impossible, in the view of such facts, to shut our eyes to the reality that while that great Republic has assumed such gigantic proportions, and at the same time has taken such an attitude in reference to these Provinces, we have a right to come to the conclusion that their determination is to close all communication, instead of fostering those peaceful and commercial relations with us, which in the past have been so remarkably beneficial.

THE DUTY THAT LIES BEFORE US.

It has been said that it is impossible for us to put ourselves in an attitude that will improve our position in this respect. I am not wrong in assuming that the desire of every British American is to remain in connection with the people of Great Britain. If there is any sentiment that was ever strong in the breast of our people, it is a disinclination to be separated in any way whatever from the British empire, or to be connected in any manner with the United States of America. But what is our present position? Isolated and separated as we are now, I ask the House whether all the protection we have is not that which the

crawling worm enjoys—and that is, its insignificance is such as to prevent the foot being placed upon it? Does it comport with the position and dignity of freemen, that we should have our only guarantee of security and protection in our insignificance? I feel in our present isolated position, standing in the presence of a power so gigantic and unfriendly that we must take speedy and prompt measures for security. I may be told that four millions of people would still stand in the presence of thirty millions, and that we would be unable to make any resistance that would ensure our safety; but I would ask the house to consider the fact that we have every reason to know—for no one can doubt the declaration of the ministry of England—that the resolve on the part of Great Britain is to stand in all her integrity by British America, provided these provinces assume such an attitude as would make the power of the parent state to be put forth with a reasonable prospect of success. Although our numbers may be comparatively small, still while we have the good fortune to be a part of the British empire, and know that all that is necessary is for us, by union and consolidation, to take such a position as would give England the guarantee that we are prepared to do our duty, and her power would not be put forth in vain, we need not fear the future. Every man who wishes to keep the liberties and rights he now possesses as subject to the Crown of England—who values the institutions he now enjoys, must see the necessity of our taking such a course as would guarantee us security in the case of conflict with any power in the world, and what would be even better, the avoidance of conflict which our attitude would accomplish.

SHALL OUR BURDENS BE GREATER?

I may be told, that great as are the advantages of Union, they will be purchased at too great a cost—that there will be an increase in the tariff—that the burdens that will be thrown upon the people will be greater than otherwise they would have been. I do not intend to weary the house with any elaborate statements on this point, except to say that I believe we have every reason to suppose, from the position we occupy in connection with the parent state—from the expansion that would accrue to the trade and commerce of the country—from the development that would be given to manufactures, and the extension of our public works—that our burdens would not be greater than if we remain in our present position. Are we not desirous at the present moment to extend our public works, and may we not fairly assume that if we were to remain out of Union that the burdens we have to bear would be increased. The time has passed when these Provinces would not have to contribute largely to the defence of the country. Either the fishing grounds so valuable to us, must be given up without a struggle to the parties who have been accustomed in the neighboring States to use them for years, or the cost of defending them must be largely thrown these Provinces.

Therefore I would ask whether, in relation to the protection of our fisheries, which will directly have to engage our attention, is not desirable to have these Provinces united and consolidated. I may be asked whether Union