

we have set out to do was to link together the British Provinces on the continent of America. We have not advanced one single jot in that respect, says the hon. gentleman. Second, to bind together in bonds of mutual affection and pride the people of this country. We have not advanced a single iota in that direction, says the hon. gentleman. Third, to make of this country a nation. And there has been no advance in that regard. Sir, I think an hon. gentleman who could make an assertion like this in view of the 21 years of progress of this Confederation must have shut his eyes to every part of the record which was plainly written before him, if he could not see the progress made in every part of this country towards linking together these outlying Provinces. I think he must have closed his ears to the sounds of progress which would have greeted them if he had kept them open from every part of the country, showing with every fall of the hammer, with every turn of the wheel, the mutual interests which were being welded together, and which were being brought into play on the line of making these people interdependent on each other, of making them essential to each others wants, and especially linking them together in the bonds of commercial union and in the bonds of social and political union as well. Let me take up, if you please, Mr. Speaker, these items a little in detail. First, the hon. gentleman said we have not made a single step in advance towards linking the Provinces together. I think the visitor who approached these shores in 1867 and took a survey of the Canadian Provinces as they were then and the same visitor who returns to-day to our shores and takes a survey of Canada as it is to-day, cannot but be impressed with the sharp contrast presented in every line, and particularly in the condition of the country now as compared with the condition of the country then. At that time we had Provinces widely scattered, with hostile tariffs, with no lines of communication. The Maritime Provinces during seven months of the year had no way to reach the Upper Provinces except through foreign territory, and no way during the other months of the year except by a long circuitous route by the sea. The two Provinces in the centre of the country had no access to the great country of the North-West except through a foreign country part of the way and then to make an overland journey by river or by vehicle into some portions of the country in the North-West. The North-West itself was a *terra incognita*, it was unknown even to the few people who lived in some sections of it. It was as unknown as is the centre of Africa to the people of the Maritime Provinces, and to the mass of the people of the two centre Provinces as well. The mountains that run north and south between British Columbia and the North-West forbade all intercourse between that country and the Pacific Province. Now, what appears? The visitor who comes here to-day finds a very different state of things. He finds Nova Scotia intersected with railways running to almost every important part of the country. He finds New Brunswick intersected with railways, possessing a larger mileage in proportion to her population than probably any other country in the world. He sees long lines of splendid communication stretching from Halifax to Montreal, stretching from Montreal to the Pacific and joining with steamship lines east and west, thus forming a communication which unites the great east in Europe with the great east in Asia by the shortest and best route for much of the commerce and for the largest proportion of the passenger traffic between those great sections of the world. He found then, Sir, different Governments, he found then different tariffs, he found then the hopes and the thoughts of each Province bounded within itself, without any great future to look to; and no student of history either in the past or in the present will fail to see the vast effect, and the mighty developing influence that the hope of

an expanding future has upon the growth of a young country. Make it believe that there is nothing in the future in point of great development or of national status, that there is not a future of hope and promise and you have put one of the strongest limits to a country's developing powers. To-day we find Nova Scotians, New Brunswickers, Prince Edward Islanders, men from Ontario and Quebec, and every other Province, not feeling so much that they are bound by the limits of their own Province, but believing and feeling and working out that feeling and belief that they are now citizens of a larger country, that they are citizens of a country which, in extent and in resources, is greater than most countries of the world, and is inferior to but few. We live now under one Government; we have the uniting power which comes from a common political literature; we have all that uniting power which comes from a common commerce and intercourse which spreads from end to end of the country along well travelled lines, and it is simply astonishing to me that a man of intelligence and a man of patriotism can stand up in any portion of Canada in this year 1888, and can say that, as far as linking together the Provinces, there has not been a single step made in advance from 1867 to 1888. That hon. gentleman said, in the second place, that what was proposed was to bind the people together in ties of mutual respect and affection, and that in that direction no advance had been made. I take issue with my hon. friend on that point and take issue with him most strongly. I, as a New Brunswick man, plead guilty to ties of mutual respect and affection for my hon. friend, with his kindly manner, with his cultured intellect, and, Sir, I should never have known my hon. friend, in all probability, had it not been that these Provinces became united, and that in this gradual getting together of people from different parts of this country I became acquainted with him. What has taken place in this one particular is but a sample of what is taking place every day, for the people of one part of the country become acquainted with the people of another to whom they would have remained strangers for ever if it had not been that the Provinces were united into a one country, with a common Government a mutual commerce and a common political centre. It is hard to analyse and it is most difficult to estimate the real importance of what takes place in this silent and quiet way. Every visitor from the remote part of one Province or who goes from the older Provinces to the far west, has a power injected into his life which finds its way out into the associations of his whole after life, and which acting upon many units in the way in which it acts on the one does more than we can imagine to make us one people, and to combine together in ties of mutual affection and esteem the people of this common country, living as they do under one common government. The hon. gentleman said that what was proposed at the outset was to make of this country a nation; whatever he could have meant by that, whether it was meant that the country should take gradually upon itself the larger life, the more generous sentiments and the confidence and pride which comes from greatness continually in progress and continually in growth or whether my hon. friend meant Independence I do not know. I do know that whether it be one or the other, as far as all essential elements of growing nationality and greatness are concerned, there has been a power at work in this Dominion of Canada from 1868 to 1888 which has simply been marvellous in its width and its force, as well as in its resultant effects. What are the elements of national life whether you mean independent national life, or whether you mean the life of a great half continent like ours united in mutual bonds of affection of blood and of common nationality with other countries equally large in extent and greater in population all belonging to the one great Empire, what I ask are the elements of national life? They are great