

scientious motives, but he would ask the opponents of the measure, now that they had fought their battle and the question had been decided, to accept that decision in the spirit of Englishmen, and to bring to bear all their energy, all their eloquence, and all their ability, and all those high qualities which he had latterly had the opportunity of testing—although those qualities were exercised in opposition to Confederation—in giving practical effect to the decision of Parliament, and endeavor by every means in their power to advance the interests of that which would be their common country. The speech of the noble Earl was repeatedly cheered. Mr. Headlam, M. P., in graceful terms proposed the health of the Lady Mayoress, which was drunk with acclamation, and with that the company separated.

In acknowledging the toast of the Delegates from the British Provinces, Hon. John A. Macdonald said—My Lord Mayor, my lords, ladies, and gentlemen, I need scarcely say that I deeply and gratefully appreciate the kindness which prompted his lordship to propose this toast, and I feel equally grateful for the very hearty response which this large assembly has given to it. We are proud to observe that not only does the chief magistrate of the chief city in the universe feel an interest in our cause, but that the representatives of the people of this country in both Houses of Parliament have shown, without mistake, that they heartily desire the completion of the measure which it is our mission here to accomplish. (Hear, hear.) We are all Englishmen, with the exception of the representative of one of the provinces of British North America, and we are all here English in heart and English in spirit, unitedly desirous of perpetuating amongst us English institutions, English law, and English feeling, and of inducing Englishmen to come out and settle in the North American colony, where we believe and hope they would feel as much at home as when under this hospitable roof. (Cheers.) Still, we feel that in some degree, at all events, we may have been in the past a source of embarrassment to the British Empire. We were a number of scattered colonies, all anxious to maintain our allegiance to the British Crown, but with different political organizations, and in case of danger or the possible outbreak of war liable to become, as I said, the source of some embarrassment to the mother country. In coming here we are animated by the desire of forming one united empire on the other side of the Atlantic, for as has been truly said, it is an empire in extent and by and bye will be so in population. (Hear, hear.) But, my lord, it will not be an empire standing alone. We believe that a new era is drawing on England and the English people. The old colonial system is passing away, and I believe that a new and more wholesome one is now commencing that England, the centre of the British Empire, will be the sun, while we are dependent planets in the east and in the west, receiving fire and life, and vigor and energy from her, and giving back to her the influence of our loyalty and devotion. (Hear, hear.) I am no believer in the doctrine that because on one occasion certain colonies fell away from England, therefore at a period not far remote certain other colonies will fall away too. Look at the case as it stands. Those thirteen colonies which formed the nucleus of the present United States fell away from the British rule with a population of four millions. See the difference between good and bad government,—not that I mean to say the Government of that day was a bad one, but it was dictated by the light which then prevailed. We are now govern-

ed by a more enlightened system, a system which had grown out of the experience of the past, and just now the British American colonies contain the same number of inhabitants which the United States contained at the time that their connection with England was severed. But are we now going to sever our connection with this country? No. (Cheers.) We have come to the British Parliament, we have laid our petition at the feet of the British Sovereign, and have asked as our greatest privilege to be allowed to form an auxiliary kingdom, by means of which we believe we shall in the future be a source of strength to the British Empire. (Cheers.) We believe that if it should happen, as it has happened before, the world is in arms against England, you will find in Canada and Australia and the other portions of the colonial empire—I am proud to say that I am sure it will be so in British North America—a body of Englishmen prepared to cast aside all ideas of sordid interest and all regard for personal safety, and ready to support you as England has always supported us when we were in straits which led us to require her help. (Hear, hear.) We know well the cost of our determination. We know that we are an outlying part of the British empire and we are liable, in the case of a hostile attack, to be the first to bear the brunt of it. We know that our country may become, as in the war of 1812, the battle field in which the battles of England are fought; but we have counted the cost and are willing to undergo it for the sake of the inestimable advantages of connection with the mother country. (Loud cheers.) As I have already stated, we have arrived at the position of a considerable kingdom: we have a population of four millions of inhabitants, and we know we duplicate our population in every sixteen or twenty years. Still we are desirous, and are over here for the purpose of showing our desire and resolve, to remain a portion of the British empire. I rejoice to know that the measure which was fostered with that object by the ability of the noble lord who has spoken to-night, and spoken so frankly, was carried without opposition in the House of Lords and with equal unanimity in the other branch of the Legislature. The preamble of that bill sets forth that it is the desire of the inhabitants of British North America to form one dominion, based on the principle of the British constitution, and the very first clause of the measure declares and enacts that now, and for ever, Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, the Sovereigns of Great Britain, shall be the Sovereigns of British North America. (Cheers.) It has been said, and said truly, that geographically we are the largest power in America. The British dominions there extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The greater part of that country is well adapted for settlement. It is a healthy, fertile country, suited to be the home of Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen, and I hope hereafter, when we are one province, under one Government, the people of England, and Scotland, and Ireland, will direct their attention more particularly to that colony and settle there in large numbers, thus continuing to increase the strength and importance of our empire rather than to strengthen foreign, and, therefore, by possibility, hostile powers. My Lord, there have been, I see, in the press of England, some remarks made occasionally to the effect that the United States may possibly be hostile to the continuance of British rule on their continent. Now, I am not one to believe in that at all. I believe that the United States Government will perform all their engagements with Great Britain, and will

respect all her rights. (Hear, hear.) It is true we see occasionally in the press and in the Legislature of the United States a feeling expressed of a desire to get possession of Canada. Well, I do not object to that; I think it is a compliment paid to Canada. If we are not worth having, we should not be coveted. (Hear, hear.) We feel about that exactly as any young lady feels to whom an offer is made, which, although she is not inclined to accept, she cannot but feel flattered by the compliment. (Laughter.) Miss Canada, as the Scotch song says, is "ower young to marry yet;" she prefers to remain in her maternal home, but still she feels thankful to the United States for its appreciation of her merits. (Laughter and cheers.) In conclusion, I would say again that I thank your lordship for the honor you have done us. I trust we shall deserve the compliment you have paid us; I assure you we shall try to do so. We have always desired to be a strength of the British Empire, and we think we have now found the way. When we return to England in five or ten years' time, I hope we shall be able to report that our country has twice its present population and resources, and that your successor in that chair which you now so worthily fill will be able to speak of you as a true prophet in your prognostication of the future wealth, strength and prosperity of British North America. (Loud cheers.)

MILITARY ITEMS.

13TH BATTALION.—For the future, admission to the drill shed will be by tickets, which can be obtained from the officers. It has been found necessary to adopt this course, in consequence of the large number of boys who crowd into the shed being so noisy in their demonstrations as to cause serious interruption to the drill.—[Hamilton Times.]

PRESENTATION.—On Friday evening last, the members of Captain Jackson's Rifle Company, presented that gentleman with a beautiful set of plate, consisting of a water urn, coffee pot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher and egg stand. The presentation took place in the Town Hall; where an address was read to the Captain, and to which he made a very appropriate and feeling reply. The present not only speaks well for the men of the company, but also for the energy and perseverance of Mr. Jackson, and we trust he may long live not only to enjoy the beautiful present, so richly merited, but also to lead the company in time of trouble, should that time unfortunately ever arrive.—[Caledonia Sacher.]

GUNBOATS.—The gunboats on the lakes are now all in order to resume their cruising as soon as the ice will permit; but at this date only the 'Heron,' at Toronto would be enabled to make out of port. The following are the officers in charge of the English gunboats:—Heron, Lieut. Solly; Britomart, Lieut. Allington; Cherub, Lieut. Huntley. The Provincial gunboats have been manned from the Aurora, as follows: Prince Alfred, Lieut. Douglas, 3 officers, 1 surgeon, 2 engineers, and 64 men; Rescue, Lieut. Fairlie, 3 officers, 2 engineers, and 48 men; Hercules, Lieut. Hooper, 2 officers, 1 surgeon, 2 engineers, and 50 men. These boats have been in charge of Mr. Wyatt, Government Agent, since they were laid up last fall. It is expected another boat will be placed on the St. Lawrence river when navigation opens.—[Hamilton Times.]