

for ourselves and for our children, on British principles, a stable form of mixed government, as distinguishable from a poor parody of unqualified democracy. I answer, by discharging our duties—all our duties—cheerfully by the Empire, and including our fellow-subjects in England to feel, and to act on the feeling, that their capital is as safe in Canada as it would be in Middlesex. (Cheers.) Our own arms are as yet too weak for the work—we must borrow the aid of the Empire,—they have bridged the Ganges and the Nile, and they will find no insuperable obstacles in the St. John, or the Saskatchewan. I desire above all things, gentlemen, to see a policy maintained by this country which shall win us respect in England. But how shall we win respect in England? Not by always saying *ditto* to Downing street (laughter); not by our ambassadors acting Sir Pertinax's part—who "never could stand straight in the presence of a great man" (laughter). We shall win respect in England by maintaining our credit, by paying our debts, by turning out, every man of us, to defend our homes against all comers; we shall win respect in England by steady proofs of our attachment to our own good government, by loyalty to the laws, by the decorum of our assemblies, by understanding, mastering, and putting boldly forth, the outlines of a national and Imperial policy, as applied to the whole congeries of the British American provinces. (Cheers.) It has been alleged that the Government of which I was a member did not, in one instance—that of the Intercolonial road—act in entire good faith by the Imperial authorities. I solemnly declare that I never saw and never heard of any design to embarrass or protract that negotiation on our part, and I must say that, as against our Government, I think any imputation of bad faith, coming either from England or the Lower Provinces, wholly unfounded by the facts. (Cheers.) I am told now, however, that the negotiations concluded at Quebec in September, 1862—including Intercolonial free trade—are abandoned. I am sorry if it be so; I believe it a wretchedly retrograde step, taken in submission to an ignorant clamour about wildernesses which do not exist, and jobs which could easily be prevented. If we are to be a nation we must have that road, if we are long to be connected with Britain we must have that road—if the British communities left on this Continent are ever to stand together, helping each other, we must have that road. I must for my part declare that I shall never abandon the advocacy of that road, unless, as I said in my address, "it should be proved by actual survey to be an undertaking beyond our strength." I have been told, by a gentleman who ought to know, that I was premature in concluding, from the Ministerial announcements, that the project has been wholly abandoned, and that Western extension has shared the same fate; they certainly have been abandoned according to Mr. Dorion's address, on the basis proposed at the Conference of Quebec, in September last, and as no other basis was indicated among the possibilities of the new programme, I think I was justified in concluding that the project was abandoned. (Cheers.)

I understand Mr. Young to say they are not dropped. (Hear, hear, from Hon. Mr. Young.) Well I should like to see that, not at second hand but in the addresses of the New Ministers. (Cheers.) I am sure if my hon. opponent was a Minister he would speak out on that subject; but if Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's new colleagues will not let him speak—if Mr. Dorion will not speak—what are we to conclude, but that they have no policy whatever on those subjects. (Cheers.) I beg to apologize to you, Mr. Registrar, for detaining you so long, but before I close you will permit me to say a few words, as to the actual state of parties, both in Upper and Lower Canada. (Hear, hear.) We are told, there are but two parties to this contest, the old Coalition party which we outated in May '62, and the present Administration party. Mr. Holmes has talked of the jobs of the coalition, and I unite with him in pronouncing them infamous. But who inaugurated the system of public jobbing in this country? Why Mr. Hincks, of whom Mr. Young was a colleague, and Mr. Holton's supporter. (Cheers.) The jobbing commenced with the railway era, and the grand jobber was the leader of both those gentlemen. (Cheers.)

Hon. Mr. Young—Name the jobs.

Hon. Mr. McGee—Oh! it would take me a week. (Laughter.) I shall give the first chapter to-morrow night at Chaboullier Square, the second on Wednesday in St. Lawrence Main Street, the third on Friday at Wellington Bridge, and the fourth on Saturday here, in the Haymarket. (Cheers.) I invite Mr. Young to attend those meetings, and if he is not heard, I shall not speak. (Cheers.) Well, gentlemen, I shall say frankly as an independent member, that if it turns out to be the case, on the meeting of the new Parliament, that if any vote or voice of mine should be instrumental in bringing back the old Coalition party to power, they of course, cannot have it. They had seven years trial as a party, and the record is heavily against them. I will say now—what no possible pressure would have forced from me, till I had this day vindicated my own position,—that, rather than suffer the restoration of the greater evil, I would vote confidence in the present Administration, though believing it to be formed in an irregular, inconsiderate, and very unconstitutional manner. But I am not convinced that the people of this country are reduced to the bare alternative of the present *replacage* or the old Coalition. I know that every election brings into Parliament from 50 to 70 new men,—I know there are liberal conservatives as well as illiberal reformers—that there are men, unstained by complicity in the old Coalition, who will be as unwilling to shoulder its sins, as you, or I, or any one can be. (Cheers.) I believe the number of independent members at the meeting of the new Parliament will be large,—and it will include, I have reason to think, all the Lower Canada section of the McDonald-Sicotte Ministry, who are now candidates for re-election, with other liberal members, who equally disapprove of the method and the example of the late *replacage*. (Cheers.) I do not apprehend, therefore, that I shall be myself forced into any position either isolated or inconsistent with my antecedents. My friends need have no anxiety.