

statecraft and political prescience which characterized him in the days of yore. Next to him stood his colleague and brother-in-arms, the gallant Sir George E. Cartier, who represented so well the gallant and chivalrous race to which he belonged, and whose memory will always be cherished by a large majority of the Canadian people. There stood, also, the hon. Minister of Public Works, who was then, as now, the indefatigable worker, the kindly and genial gentleman, and the able statesman. Nova Scotia sent us a magnificent contingent. First was the hon. Minister of Railways, who came to us with no supporters from his native Province; he was backed up only by his own matchless eloquence and dauntless courage. We all remember how he was ringed round by his abler countrymen, and how sternly he fought the fight and kept his faith in the cause of Union and progress, until Union perched upon his banners. There was also that grand old statesman, Joseph Howe, of whom Canada and Nova Scotia may well feel proud. He came to us in the evening of his days, somewhat broken by his long services in the cause of constitutional Government. New Brunswick sent us men of great ability, among them the hon. Minister of Finance, who by his practical ability and profound knowledge of economical questions has done so much towards developing the resources of the Dominion. There also came the hon. member from Northumberland, Peter Mitchell, the leader of a great party, destined, perhaps, at no distant period, to exercise a vast influence, but which at present is more distinguished for intelligence and genius than its numbers. That hon. gentleman, as we are all aware, built up a magnificent department, which has been of incalculable benefit to the country. It is to be regretted that, while always foremost in the fray and fight, he was always late at the division of the spoil. Then, we recollect the gallant Irishman, the brilliant orator, the true poet, and great statesman, the late lamented D'Arcy McGee, who went out from the light of this room one night, after delivering a speech replete with patriotic sentiments, into the darkness to his doom. We had also many other able men, some of whom I see before me, but many of whom sleep that sleep that knows no waking; and I think it would be well that the appearances of those men should be perpetuated by a Canadian artist. Therefore it is that I have most earnestly supported the proposition of the hon. member from Quebec East. We have been told that there are certain ideas which preside over the human intelligence. These are the ideas of industry, justice, religion, the beautiful and the true. In a young land like ours, where nearly every man is engaged in the fierce race for wealth, or the active struggle for existence, we have little time to study the beautiful. Lord Roseberry said the other day that this was the age of the bees, and not of the wasps. The whole land is teeming with life, energy and activity. The hot lava of youth courses through the veins of industrial and social bodies. Under those circumstances, it is very pleasing to find some men who step aside out of the dust and turmoil of political and commercial warfare, and devote themselves to the study of the good, the true and the beautiful. I believe that our Canadian artists are worthy of all honor and respect. I am satisfied that there are among them men of genius, whose works will reflect credit on their native land. I think that those men deserve every encouragement which the Government and general public can afford. Even if they were not men of marked ability, as a Canadian I would be disposed to stand by and encourage them, saying, as Touchstone did of Audrey: "They are all our own." I have much pleasure in seconding the proposition of the hon. member for Quebec East.

Mr. MITCHELL. Might I ask the hon. gentleman, as I asked the hon. member for Quebec East, to speak little louder. I myself, in common with most of the hon. gentlemen around me, failed to be able to understand what motion he was making. May I ask now what motion is before the Chair? And I take this opportunity of saying, I do think that when I ask any person addressing the Chair on an important motion before the House to speak a little louder he should do so, in order that we might know and intelligently consider any proposition made to the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER. The motion now before the House is that I do now leave the Chair, and that the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. MITCHELL. A very proper motion. I second it.

Mr. LAURIER. I am sorry that I could not be heard by the hon. gentleman. I regret that I cannot speak any louder, as I am suffering just now from an affection of the throat, which prevents me speaking louder.

Mr. PATTERSON (Brant). I want to say one word. I suppose that my hon. friend from Ottawa county in enumerating the principal characters which took part in this great scheme has omitted to mention the name of one of these gentlemen, which I at any rate hold in very high regard—one who sleeps the sleep that the hon. gentleman spoke so nicely about with reference to another gentleman. I am sure that it was simply an oversight on his part, as he was one of the most prominent actors in that matter—I refer to the hon. George Brown, of course.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. This is really one of those occasions in which the asperities of politics are forgotten, and the amenities of social and political life are remembered. I think that the House must have listened with great pleasure and satisfaction to the remarks which were made by the hon. gentleman who sits opposite to me, and by my hon. friend from Ottawa county, who so gracefully seconded his proposition. It is true that this subject was laid before the Government a little while ago, and that no answer has been given to it; but I take it, from the remarks made by those hon. gentlemen and from the general consent which their suggestions have received from the House, that we may conclude that it is the desire of the House that this commemorative painting should be prepared by a Canadian artist, and should adorn, or, at all events, be present in the halls of the country. My hon. friend from Quebec East has truly said, that Confederation was, in fact, a revolution—peaceful it is true, but still a revolution, and it is one of the gratifications which Canadians in the future will have, when they read the history of their country, to know that so great a revolution, altering the Constitution, and changing the position of four scattered and separate Provinces into a position of a proud and strong Dominion, was carried without a blow being struck, without a drop of blood being shed, and without life being endangered. It was my pleasure to call attention in the first Confederation meeting at Quebec, to the marked difference between this revolution in Canada and the one which took place in the thirteen colonies. In 1864, we had nearly the same population as the thirteen colonies, had when they severed themselves by force from the Mother Country; and it was a remarkable thing that, approaching to 4,000,000 inhabitants living under the same Government, under the descendant of the same Sovereign—the first resolution which was adopted at Quebec was this: That the four Provinces should be one united country under the perpetual Sovereignty of Her