

of their ability, assisted to promote the Confederation of the North American provinces because they believed that measure would be calculated to advance both those desirable objects.

Before presenting a narrative of the Marine Telegraphs Act, which was the sinister achievement of the last session of the Canadian Parliament, it is hardly necessary that I should make good the claim of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company to be dealt with in Canada or elsewhere on terms of justice and equity, for in this country the commercial community, as well as the nation generally, is to the last degree sensitive to any act of the Government or Legislature which might tend to impair the public credit. Like Caesar's wife, our rulers must always be even above the suspicion of any evil intention. Therefore, in order to ensure public reprobation of the policy pursued by the Dominion Government, it would be quite sufficient to show that the rights of the Atlantic Telegraph proprietors have been gravely compromised by recent legislation, and that the attack of which they are the victims was made without the slightest provocation. But, in addressing English readers on the subject, it is impossible to forget who the people are against whom, under the guise of providing for the construction and maintenance of marine telegraphs, a measure of confiscation has been passed. They are the pioneers and chief pro-