

of two millions now. It was used by Anti-Confederates in 1867, but in vain. That was the time, if ever, when it should have told. Geography had vetoed the making of Canada. The proposed Dominion consisted of four geographical divisions that could not be united together by railways, and each of which was intended by nature to be a mere appendage to a corresponding state or section to the south. There was a measure of truth in this. But the people of Canada would not listen. Instinctively they realised that every nation must be ready to pay a price, must be willing to transcend difficulties, in order to realise itself, to maintain its independence, to secure for itself a distinctive future. They said, let us rise up and build. So they added to their unequalled system of internal navigation from the Straits of Belleisle up into the centre of the continent, an unparalleled railway system along lines where engineers and scientific men had declared that railways could not be built. And now, when the difficulties have been overcome, when every part of our Confederacy is linked together by hands of the best steel, when magnificent dry docks have been built at Halifax and Vancouver, when our coasts and rivers and lakes have been lighted with hundreds of lighthouses: now, when—after incredible toil and expense and faith on the part of, comparatively speaking, a handful of people scattered over half a continent—we have succeeded in building our nation's house, it is coolly proposed that we should break it into fragments as if it were a card castle, and as if the putting of it together had been merely a bit of child's play on the part of grown babies! No, sir; I for one will not do it.

The Manifest Destiny argument has been used on every occasion on which we have come into contact with our neighbours for any purpose whatsoever. Its use shows that they think a good deal of our country and very little of us. Our position has been consistent from first to last. We are a trading people, from our origin, because of our traditions, tastes, and necessities. We desire to trade with every one, and most of all with neighbours. No government could hold office with us for a month that did not recognise this. We have never put an end to a treaty of commerce, existing or proposed, with the United States, but we have made a good many offers and invited others. The only absolute condition insisted on by us is that of honour, or the preservation of our own fiscal and political independence. The position that we took a hundred years ago as part of the British Empire we hold still.