

great joy all over the Empire, for it would proclaim in trumpet tones that the great British city of Toronto was up and doing in the glorious work of Imperial Federation. (Applause.) He said the great British city of Toronto. Was he wrong? ("No, no"; and renewed applause.) But a short time ago one of the leading organs of the newspaper press there sought to draw a distinction between Canadians and Britons. When he recollected, however, the quarter from which that attempt was made it did not seem to be altogether unexpected—(laughter)—because the newspaper that drew that distinction seemed to think also that Canadians had so far degenerated from the old British stock that they would think with the traitor Wiman that the vast riches of this land were intended, not for Canadians, not for Britons, but for the people of the United States.

The pugnacious individual in the front seat here interrupted, but was shouted into silence by an angry storm from all quarters of the house.

When silence was restored Mr. McNeill continued to say that it was not surprising such an attempt should be made, but it was an attempt that speedily collapsed, for the great loyal spirit of public opinion pressed it down. The people of Toronto were as thoroughly British as any people under the sun, and for that reason he would repeat, even at the risk of offending or displeasing the traitorous crew, "the great British city of Toronto." (Loud applause.) The news of that meeting would be hailed, not only in Ontario and Canada, but over the whole Empire as tidings of joy, not only because of the moral effect which necessarily it would have, but on account of the great good which it would directly achieve in the direction of Imperial Federation. Heretofore Toronto, which should have been in the van of this movement, had been strangely dilatory in getting under way. Montreal was now three years ahead, and friends of federation were beginning to ask what was the matter with Toronto. The city occupied too prominent a position to remain idle and look on. People naturally turned their eyes to Toronto and so far they had seen nothing done there. It would be readily understood that such an effect was distinctly for evil. But if proof of the spirit of Toronto were required it would be found in the fact that the city had returned as a representative to Ottawa a gentleman who spoke out in this matter with no uncertain voice on the very day that the Imperial Federation League was first organized in Canada, (applause,) and if further proof were required it was to be found in the fact that the city had returned a second gentleman to Ottawa who, to his own everlasting honor and the everlasting honor of the city he represented he said, had sent an an-

swer to those who asked Canada to barter her birthright, which rang out fearless and true throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion (loud applause), an answer that was worthy of the man who, living in Canada, had left it for a while to join in the noble attempt to succor on the Nile one of the truest and best spirits, one of the truest world heroes that had ever lived in the tide of time. (Loud applause.) That night, however, Toronto had made a beginning in the Imperial Federation movement that would, he was sure, well atone for the tardiness of the past; a beginning that was an earnest of still greater things to come. (Applause.)

He ventured to say that there was not a single man in that great assemblage who did not sympathize with the great cause they had at heart and desire to further it, which all could do by enrolling themselves that night as members of the Imperial Federation League. (Applause.) The present was a great opportunity afforded to all to help on the greatest and most glorious political cause that human tongue ever advocated. (Applause.)

The man in the front seat—What is it?

Mr. McNeill—It is, sir, when you ask me a cause of peace and progress and civilization. (Applause.) It is, sir, the cause of your own Empire and your own race, (renewed applause,) and I will tell you further, to give you heart, that it is not a losing cause (Great applause.) Even if it were, I should never forsake it; even if it were, you should ask for myself no more glorious destiny than that I might go down forever with it. But it is a cause that will gloriously succeed and in the days to come the man will account himself honored who will be able to say "my forefathers in the days that are past were among those who helped to bring about the consolidation of our matchless British Empire. (Loud and long continued applause.)

On silence succeeding, a gentleman in the rear, referring to the discomfited party in the front seat, appealed to the speaker to "hit him again," an observation that sent the house into roars of laughter,

Mr. McNeill continuing, said more directly to answer a question as to what particular form of federation it was proposed to advocate, he would say that the Imperial Federation League advocated no particular form of Imperial unity, but it existed to advocate consultation, intercommunication, consolidation and concerted action among the different members of the British Empire. (Applause.) And what particular form that Imperial unity might eventually take he for his part did not care so long as it was the best possible and so long as it safe-guarded the existing rights of local Governments in the management of local affairs. He had said this from his place in the House of Commons five