

party thought we ought to have a dissolution of the Union between Upper and Lower Canada. We had, as I have said, three or four alternatives before us, but now that is all gone. We have Confederation, but if that fails what is your alternative?

A VOICE—Look to Washington. (Laughter.)

Mr. MACDOUGALL.—I do not know whether the gentleman who cries "look to Washington" means it as a joke or a sneer; but I am afraid a great many in the Dominion are looking to Washington now, and that more in Western Canada would look to Washington if, after all, we find ourselves in the same position as before—the majority of Upper Canada ignored and the government resting on the majorities obtained in the eastern provinces. (Cheers.) I will be no party to that state of things. I believe we can secure all the fair and reasonable interests of Upper Canada until the whole work is completed. You have nothing now but a cry, nothing but the names of men. No measure or policy is submitted to the new government, which for anything I know to the contrary may not be submitted to the country. When its policy is declared, then you will have something perhaps about which you may differ and which may have the effect of again dividing parties.

A VOICE—What about J. A. Macdonald?

Mr. McDUGALL.—I have heard John A. Macdonald denounced. I am no political admirer of John A. Macdonald. I have fought him as hard as any man and perhaps have given him a little trouble; but I will do him the justice to say, that since the time when he entered this coalition he has worked as loyally, as zealously, as industriously and honestly as any one for the purpose of securing a good constitution for this country. Gentlemen may say that he was forced to do so, and may think so, and may think so if they please. I think that if he had not been convinced that the new system was a good one for the country he would have kept his party together, carried on the government, and fought the battle he has carried on for so many years without going into a coalition and agreeing to this arrangement. I know something of the work he has done and the attention he has bestowed to perfect this

constitution as far as possible; and I am willing to do him justice and to say that he and his colleagues are entitled to some share of the gratitude of his country. Mr. Brown is not entitled to monopolize all the credit, all the praise, and all the glory of the achievement. Public men of all parties have laboured for it. Talk about the tories having done nothing! Who carried it in Nova Scotia? A tory party periled their existence by acting with us, and surely it rests not with us to say that no tory shall have credit in the matter. Sir, toryism and reform and all the rest of it are buried in the past. We have got as our Yankee friends would say a "clean slate," or as the scholar would call it a *tabula rasa*. We have a new constitution: there is the machine—work it. We have heard Mr. Brown say that there is no reason now why the Roman Catholics should not work with the reformers, because there are now no longer questions at issue between them. So too there is no reason now why the conservatives and reformers should not work together. We will, no doubt, have parties. It is the normal condition of governments to be carried on by parties. Differences will undoubtedly arise, and I could perhaps start questions here to-night upon which there would be differences of opinion in this assemblage. There are commercial questions—questions of free trade and protection, the tariff, the currency, and so on—which may be before us in a short time, and upon these politicians and newspaper writers all over the country will take sides. In the meantime, this is the position in which we find ourselves:—We will shortly have an election. The government, as a government will have a policy. Gentlemen in this room may say that they will oppose the government without knowing anything of its policy, but the country will not be satisfied with such a course as that. It will make known its policy and then appeal to the country. It will have its friends and its opponents, and a line will be drawn between the two. Its friends will be supported as far as it is possible for any government to support its friends. I believe it will be found when the election takes place, that its friends will outnumber its opponents in this as in other sections of the Dominion, and I am willing to await the decision of that election. (Cheers and ironical shouts.)