

come here en masse, as a Province, either in Government, or in Opposition. But, sir, this also I will venture to add, that no one Province politician can ever lead this Dominion Parliament; that the man must be of national dimensions to fill that place, and discharge its duties. So it will be; so it ought to be! (Applause.) As to the life Senate, we have all the best constitutional authorities with us, that a second Chamber ought not to stand on the electoral basis of the first; and, so long as our Senate continues to be a fair representation of all our real interests, so long it will be looked up to, and obeyed. If it is to be undetermined it will be by the abuse of Executive patronage, and not by the substitution of the principle of selection for that of election, as applied to that House, (hear, hear). In maintaining the independence of the judges, and reserving their appointment to the National Government. I also believe this Union Act to be wisely framed; and its establishment a cause of congratulation to all the Provinces. Speaking the other night of its imputed or imagined defects, an honourable member said, "it was only an Act of Parliament!" So I will take leave to remind him are the Bill of Rights, and the Act of Succession both included for us, in this Act; but they are fundamental acts and parts of the British Constitution, and no one as yet has argued that they belong to the same class, as the ordinary Statutes of the realm. They are looked upon, to use Lord Chatham's words, as "the Scriptures of the Constitution;" while other ordinances of Parliament are as the writings of particular commentators, open to revision and correction (hear, hear). But, sir, I will go farther than the fitness of the time, the constitutionality and circumspection of the change, and the excellence of the Act; I affirmed this, that in establishing a second Constitutional Government on this continent, we are rendering an unpurchasable service to the cause of civil and religious liberty everywhere. I say a second Constitutional Government, for I admit that of Washington to be the first, and I suppose we must leave Mexico at present out of the account, not only of constitutional, but of civilized governments. What is it to establish such a second government in America? It is, in my humble opinion, to provide all men with an opportunity of comparison, and a means of choice between two systems—the British representative system of free government, and the American, or Democratic system. It is to give the third generation of the 19th century an opportunity to observe the institutions of our

common ancestors adapted to our Canadian circumstances, side by side with the institutions of Anglo-American invention, in the last years of the last century. It is to put side by side in this new arena, filled with eager spectators, the masterpieces of Alfred and Edward I; of Bacon, Somers, and Chatham, with the masterpieces of Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, and Marshall; it is to compare an ancient text of freedom, enriched with the commentaries of Hall, Burke, Mansfield, and Mackintosh, with a modern text elucidated by Webster and Storey and Calhoun. They have no cause to be ashamed of their political progenitors, neither have we (hear, hear); and with all possible admiration for the age that produced the American constitution, and the illustrious men who adopted it, I hope we live in a better century than they did (hear, hear). This century, as compared with the 18th may be called a religious century; there is no Bolingbroke possible now "to patronise Providence;" no Voltaire to argue "that Christ was no charmer;" no Lichtenberg to anticipate the day when "the belief in God would be like a nursery tale;" the skeptical method of Descartes is not, thank God, the philosophical gospel of the age. Though the Republican Fathers were many of them sincerely religious men, yet many others, such as Jefferson and Franklin, were professed skeptics; and the philosophy of doubt, breaking off all traditions, and pretending that each man should start afresh on his own consciousness, acknowledging nothing he could not prove, was too congenial to the epoch and its work, not to be acquiesced in by the majority. Rationalism lies at the root of Republicanism; faith and reverence have prepared the deeper and better foundations of our form of Government; and until faith and reverence fail from our hearts, or those of our children, I have no fear that this, our Constitution, will fail. (Applause.) I come now, sir, to refer lastly, to what gives the completion of character to this work, the clause affirming the sovereign rights of Her Majesty and her successors, over British America. These clauses, declaring the Executive power to reside with the Queen, to be exercised by and with the advice of Her Privy Council for Canada; declaring the sovereign to be Commander-in-Chief of all the land and sea forces of this country; declaring the Queen the first estate of this Parliament; all these are merely declaratory clauses, repeating and renewing old maxims and arrangements. What is remarkable, however, is that whereas simi-