

gress it must in time have established an independent nationality in any case. Under normal conditions the communities which now constitute Canada would have been linked with the communities which now form the United States. Unfortunately, incidents occurred more than a century ago which caused them to separate from the mother-land in anger and by force. We in Canada represent, for the most part, the descendants of those who preferred to stand by the empire. But history has decided that the resisting colonists were justified, and time has demonstrated that as descendants of the great Anglo-Saxon race they had the capacity for self-government and the power to achieve the most wonderful national progress the world has ever seen. Time has mellowed the old animosities and completely changed the conditions under which our ancestors separated from theirs. Why should we longer remain apart? Our interests are identical. Why should we form an alliance with less than forty millions of people in a country several thousands of miles away and with national interests distinctly diverse, when we can form an alliance with over sixty millions at our own doors with common national interests? The forty millions in the British Islands have pretty nearly reached their measure of expansion, but the sixty millions of English-speaking people beside us will soon become hundreds of millions and exercise a commanding influence among the nations of the earth. Why should we load ourselves with the burdens of a separate national government when under a federal system, one central executive can govern a whole continent as effectively as half a continent? Do we want a destiny that will fire the imagination? Then let us take John Bright's advice and unite the great English race in North America and bequeath to our children a scope and

a destiny unparalleled in the annals of mankind. In so doing we shall be rendering the greatest service in our power to the great nation to which we now belong and to which we are bound by so many ties of honor and affection. To the great English-speaking communities which have sprung from her loins, Great Britain must look for her allies and supporters in her great civilizing mission in the world. The only cause of friction between Britain and her greatest offspring is Canada. The petty disputes about fisheries, seals, canals, railways and bonding privileges are the sole remaining hindrance to an absolutely friendly alliance. Let us then with Britain's consent seek an equal alliance with our separated brothers, and make our changed allegiance the occasion of a treaty of perpetual friendship and mutual defence between the two great nations of the English race."

This is the third proposition: presented to my consideration by the advocate of a United North America. What he says, be it understood, may be all fallacy, if this be so, it can be demonstrated. It may be that the proposition he propounds is one which it would be dishonorable and unmanly for the Canadian people to accept. If this be so can we not trust the logic of the imperialist and the intelligence of the Canadian people to make this clear? What I am contending for is that all these questions must be discussed and discussed on even terms. The advocate of Political Union with United States has as good a right to present his case to the Canadian people as the imperialist, and the people who desire to reach a right conclusion are bound to hear and weigh everything that can be offered upon the question—the momentous question of Canada's destiny. The supreme point, as I conceive it, is which alternative stands for the best interests of Canada? How can I decide without hearing *all*