

aberration of some men of supposed light and leading among them. I do not believe that there ever was a time when that great people would not have responded with enthusiasm to the sentiment expressed in the words of Mr. Watkin, member for Stockport, upon the debate on the British North America Bill in 1867, when he said that "he believed that the people of England felt a deep attachment to their Empire, and that not even a barren rock over which the flag of England had once waved, would be abandoned by them without a cogent and sufficient reason"(j).

We may pass on to the grand event of the accomplishment of Dominion confederation merely observing that the analogy between the Canadian Constitution and the British was temporarily broken in upon by the Canadian Act of 1856(k), providing, in accordance with the power given by an Imperial Act of 1854(l), for an elective Upper House. The intention of the founders of confederation was to preserve as closely as possible that analogy under the Union. As the third Quebec Resolution expressly declares: "In framing a constitution for the general Government, the conference, with a view to the perpetuation of our connection with the Mother Country, and the promotion of the best interests of the people of these Provinces, desire to follow the model of the British Constitution, so far as our circumstances will permit." They desired that we should enjoy, in the words of Sir John Macdonald, premier of the Province of Canada, "the privileges of constitutional liberty according to the British system"(m); and declared expressly in the preamble to the British North America Act that the Canadian Provinces were to be federally united into one Dominion under the Crown with a Constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom. That declaration, however, in the preamble of the

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(j) Hans., 3rd Ser., Vol. 185, p. 1188.

(k) 19-20 Vict. c. 140; Con. Stats. of Can. c. 1.

(l) 17-18 Vict. c. 118.

(m) Quoted Gray on Confederation, p. 114.