

content to allow them to try the experiment. It is, and always has been, my own very strong desire that this measure should be so conducted, that it might ultimately result in removing all possible causes of conflict between the two great divisions of the British race, and end in bringing them together in a firm and durable alliance: and (given only a very moderate amount of prudent statemanship on the part of the English Government) I see every reason to hope that that end may be accomplished; but whether or no, I see still more clearly that some very radical change in the position of affairs in Canada must be brought about, and that very speedily, or else that the Canadian Confederation must perish, rotten before it has had time to become even half ripe, as the result of the vice and folly with which its affairs have been administered.

I have not deemed it worth my while to dwell at length on the dishonest and dishonourable pretence advanced by the late Sir John A. Macdonald and his fellows, to the effect that their policy of corruption and extortion was prompted by their fervent desire to preserve the connection between Canada and the mother country.

In Canada such allegations are treated with the contempt they merit; and in England the fact that those who make them are the identical persons who in 1879 deliberately turned their backs upon the fiscal system of Great Britain, and deliberately adopted the system in vogue in the United States—with full knowledge of the results which would inevitably follow—ought to be answer enough to anyone who pretends to believe that loyalty to England is at the bottom of a system of protection in Canada or elsewhere.

But in truth the question between the two Canadian parties is in reality an economic one, and in the long run resolves itself into this—shall Canada be governed for the benefit of the people of Canada, or for the profit of a few hundred protected manufacturers, backed by a subsidised press and a purchased majority in the Legislature?

To talk of loyalty in such a connection is little short of political blasphemy, and I can only express my surprise that such a shallow subterfuge should have obtained even a momentary credence in the mind of any Englishman of even average intelligence.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT.

KINGSTON, *January, 25th 1892.*