

the best interests of the masses of Canadian people, because its immediate effect would be to defer the entry of the Canadian provinces into the American Union. I believe that this would be the result, because it would give to the Canadians free trade with us, the only thing that all classes concur in saying they want from us. If this were granted it is obvious that so long as Great Britain should continue to build their forts, subsidizes their railroads, canals and steamship lines, fight their battles, guarantee their public debts, flatter their pride, and bestow hereditary titles upon their great men, sprung mostly from the humbler walks of life, so long would they strive to maintain their position in the British Empire.

After careful consideration, I do not hesitate to express the opinion that our true policy is to invite all the British Provinces in North America to come into our glorious union, as states and territories, on the assurance that our government will assume the public debt of the Dominion and of the independent provinces. This could not fail to give them every privilege and blessing they now enjoy, except such as are connected with hereditary titles, and it would give them in addition the inestimable boon of absolute self-government, accompanied by free and unrestricted trade, with sixty millions of the most enlightened, the most progressive, and the most wealthy people in the world. Their waste lands, are, or soon will be required by us, and would therefore be speedily taken up for cultivation; their mines of precious metals, coal and iron, would be opened and worked, their forests would be utilized, and every resource would be developed to their infinite enrichment, and to the promotion of our common peace, safety and glory.

Should they fail to accept this generous offer, and decide to adhere to their British allegiance, they can not regard it as at all unkind or unneighborly in us, if, instead of consenting to a Commercial or Customs Union, we at once repeal the laws and abrogate the treaty under which the Transit Trade is conducted; insist upon our full share of the fisheries;