

Americans for providing greater protection for property against state governments than the Quebec Resolutions offered against provincial governments.<sup>107</sup>

Despite its republican foundations, the Constitution of the United States received, on balance, rather high marks from the monarchist Canadian Parliamentarians of 1865. The rave reviews, however, were saved for the framers of the American Constitution and appeared in such statements as Joseph Cauchon's reference to "the illustrious founders of the Union" and Isaac Bowman's salute to the American founding fathers as "some of the wisest and ablest statesmen."<sup>108</sup> Even when George-Etienne Cartier condemns George Washington's "insidious offer" to Quebecers to join the American Revolution, the context makes clear that the target of his contempt is the offer itself but not the man from whom it issued.<sup>109</sup> The most remarkable encomium, however, came from John Ross who suggested that opponents of confederation might overcome their narrow provincialism if they would take the trouble to "read the debates which preceded the establishment of the American Constitution." He singled out the debates in Virginia, "which at that time, by reason of its wealth and population, bore a similar relation to the other colonies to that which Canada now bears to the Lower Provinces." By reading the great speeches of "the Madisons, the Marshalls, the Randolphs, the Henrys, the Lees and others," opponents of confederation would see that "those great patriots," setting aside the small village feelings and animosities tending to embarrass and to destroy harmony, . . . "acted like great men, true and noble men as they were, and applied themselves to their task with the purpose of bringing it to a successful issue."<sup>110</sup>

In view of the high esteem in which the Confederation fathers held the framers of the American Constitution, it seems fitting that we examine the extent to which they used ideas, strategies and arguments similar to those employed by their American predecessors. Here we meet at once an embarrassment of riches. The founding fathers in both countries: a.) insisted that the time for constitutional reform was "now or never," with the Americans threatening the grim spectre of civil war or foreign invasion and the Canadians the