

Such visionary and impracticable ideas are not likely to do much harm in themselves, but I cannot refrain from expressing my surprise and regret that the lecturer should associate the name of Sir John Macdonald with his fantastic scheme—Sir John Macdonald! the guiding principle of whose long and eventful life was British connection, and for whom the visible symbol of that intimate union stood as a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night. Far from entertaining any sympathy with a propaganda having for its object the lowering of the Union Jack upon this continent at any time, Sir John Macdonald held the very idea in detestation. This was so well known and so universally acknowledged in his lifetime, I am amazed that any one can be found to ignore it to-day. One must not overlook the fact, however, that time is marching on, and that a generation is coming forward to whom Sir John Macdonald is but an historic name. For their instruction, and with many apologies to those who knew him in the flesh, I proceed to show out of his own mouth what that great statesman thought of British connection. I quote from a speech delivered by Sir John Macdonald at Queen's University, Kingston, in 1887:—

"I am satisfied that the vast majority of the people of Canada are in favour of the continuance and perpetuation of the connection between the Dominion and the mother country. There is nothing to gain and everything to lose by separation. I believe that if any party or person were to announce or declare such a thing, whether by annexation with the neighbouring country, the great republic to the south of us, or by declaring for independence, I believe that the people of Canada would say 'No.' We are content, we are prosperous, we have prospered under the flag of England; and I say that it would be unwise, that we should be lunatics, to change the certain present happiness for the uncertain chances of the future. I always remember, when this occurs to me, the Italian epitaph: 'I was well, I would be better, and here I am.' We are well, we know, all are well, and I am satisfied that the majority of the people of Canada are of the same opinion which I now venture to express here. For the language that I heard this morning, the language which I have heard this afternoon, and the language which I have heard to-night, shows that, at all events, all who are connected with the University of Queen's are men in favour of the continuance of the connection between the Dominion and Great Britain. *I say that it would bring misfortune and ruin, any separation from the United Kingdom.* I believe that is the opinion of the present Parliament of Canada, and I am certain that any party, or the supposed party, making an appeal to the people of Canada, or any persons attempting to form a party on the principle of separation from England, no matter whether they should propose to walk alone, or join another country, I believe that the people of Canada would rise, almost to a man, and say, 'No, we will do as our fathers have done. We are content, and our children are content, to live *under the flag of Great Britain.*'"