

and one that you will scarcely find paralleled in the political history of any other country, to see parties lay down all their weapons of warfare and set aside all their prejudices and feelings for the purpose of obtaining a great common object which they both acknowledge was for the interest and good of the country; and I do say it is an example that entitles those who were engaged in it to the highest consideration of the people of this country. (Cheers.) And while I say that those gentlemen who made this sacrifice of feeling and party passion to effect this object in the way they did are deserving of the gratitude of the people of this country, they have given evidence that they themselves have an equally high appreciation of the object in view, and are equally ready to sacrifice their own feelings and their own local and party interests for the purpose of its attainment. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Chairman, having agreed that this was an object of paramount importance over all others for the future good of this country, and having agreed that a government should be formed especially for the purpose of its attainment, and that during the period that was necessary should elapse between its formation and the attainment of that object party issues should be set aside—having agreed, I say, to all that, I have ever since felt it my duty to adhere to the bond. (Loud and prolonged cheers.) Whilst I have not found anything in the general course pursued by the government since its formation in the way described that I could dissent from, and whilst I have found nothing in its ordinary policy which I could not heartily approve, I have felt it my duty under these circumstances to adhere to the original arrangement, and to carry it through as far as my poor abilities and assistance may be necessary to help it. (Cheers.) I will ask to be allowed, in a few words, to express my regret that I am called upon here, as leader of the Reform section of the government, to respond to this toast. I regret it because one who occupied that position, and who would have much more ably fulfilled this duty, is no longer with us; and I regret it the more because that gentleman's ability and influence and position in the country make it important that the Government should have his co-operation in carrying out that which is for the interest of the country. I regret that he is not here with us as a member of the Government, still co-operating with us for all the objects we have in view. (Hear, hear.) I shall not, sir, go into the details of the measure that is proposed for confederating these Provinces. I do not think that at this late hour of the night, or rather early hour of the morning, it would be desirable for me to make, or agreeable to you to listen, to any such statement. I will merely say that I think we have the strongest evidence on the part of the people of this Province, I may say almost without exception, because there has been no public demonstration whatever that I have heard of in which any portion of the people have collectively said that they do not desire it—I say I think we have the strongest evidence that they are in favor of the scheme that has been submitted to them. (Loud cheers.) I think it must be apparent to any man who has the slightest conception of the subject that a political union of these Provinces must as a consequence bind all their interests together, and have a tendency to increase our importance, extend our prosperity, and add to our security. (Loud cheers.) I myself