

*conquered race here.* We are all british subjects and those who are not of english origin are not the less british subjects."

Have we met the wishes of the fathers of confederation? Has the province of Quebec in particular respected the undertakings implied in this partnership agreement? Has she neglected or fulfilled the duties and obligations it imposes? Without fear of contradiction we can affirm that we have never shrunk from any duty and that we have never shirked any responsibility.

We have enjoyed the liberty that was granted us while respecting that of others. We have preserved and defended our autonomy without ever infringing upon that of others. We have respected the rights of the minority here and we have demanded that the same thing be done elsewhere. As Brown wished, we have wanted everybody placed on a footing of equality.

No idea of domination entered our efforts in favor of the use of our language, the respect of our rights recognized by our constitution. No desire for conquest has animated us in our aspirations. All the struggles we have carried on had as their aim nothing but the defense of what we considered to be the expression of the constitution. Impartial history will bear witness that the French-Canadians remained Canadians before every thing. In certain quarters they cannot understand this mentality. If this fight continues, if instead of treating us as partners, they persist in maligning us, in considering us as the plague spot of confederation, an obstacle to the union, progress, and development of the country, that can have but one result: the breaking of the confederation pact. Nobody can seriously argue that if the spirit of the constitution is not respected the mere letter of the contract is enough to maintain the association. Our compatriots in Ontario, since this motion was presented, asked us to forget the fight that they have waged upon us, and to unite for the working out of our destinies.

To bring about this reunion of the races, we have gone to the extreme limit of conciliation and of concessions. Sometimes we have even made sacrifices at the expense of our acquired rights and our race pride. We have not got credit for it. Especially during the last twenty five years, we have faithfully tried every means of bringing about this indispensable union and cementing it. Just when we thought our efforts crowned with success, when we believed that peace and harmony were established on a firm foundation, when we could at last, forgetting quarrels, work only for