

despatch to England, which seems to have been approved neither on the one side of the Atlantic nor the other. And they have had some tinkering with the Customs; but they had ventured upon no broad development of views upon this important subject such as the country was entitled to expect from those into whose hands had been committed her political destinies. [Cheers.] With respect to the great change in which he had referred, it had come upon us by no action of our own. It had proceeded from a quarter over which we had no control. All discussion, therefore, as to the expediency or inexpediency of adopting it as respected us was precluded, as, at least, unnecessary. But having been thus imposed upon us by the irresistible current of events and the progress of Imperial Legislation, it was evident to him it must be carried out to its legitimate consequences. [Cheers.] We must not shut our eyes to those consequences, but with a manly self-reliance look our condition boldly in the face, and meet the exigencies of the position in which we are placed. Above all we must not allow any sickly attempt to favor what might be supposed to be the shipping or any other particular interest to be successful at the expense of the great body of the people of the country. [Cheers.] With respect to some of those interests, Great Britain had in the most solemn manner expressed her readiness to acquiesce in this course of action on our part—conferring upon us the power of legislating upon the subject to an extent never before conceded to any of her Colonies. And with respect to the shipping question, he for his part doubted not that she would be found ready to deal with it in a spirit of equal fairness. [Cheers.] He did not overlook the political considerations to which Lord John Russell had referred, with respect to this important branch of the subject, and he [Mr. B.] would be the last man in the Province in the least degree to undervalue them. [Cheers.] But he doubted much whether, when an enlarged and accurate view came to be taken of the question in all its bearings, it would be found that the considerations alluded to really entered, to any extent that could be appreciated, into the question. But what he should feel bound to contend for was, that the farmers of the country were not, on the one hand, to be deprived of the advantage of differential duties in their favor in the Markets of Great Britain; and on the other, be saddled with such duties, or what

in its practical operation on their interests was equivalent to such duties, for the mere advancement of the separate interests of any other class of the community either in the Parent State or the Colony itself. [Great Cheering.] Before leaving this subject, however, he must strongly deprecate any idle attempt to delude the people of this country into a belief that any action of theirs could procure a retrograde movement on the part of the Imperial Government, or stop the forward progress of the mighty movement that had commenced. The word had gone forth, in different parts of Europe it had already met with an echo, which, though as yet feeble, sufficiently indicated the certainty of its onward course. Let no one then persuade us to waste our time or exhaust our energies, in any attempt of the kind in which he referred; but let us learn to depend upon ourselves. Let us shake off the imbecility of childhood and stand erect like men, and be felt assured that Canada would be found fully equal in the emergency. [Cheers.]—But he had strayed from the point to which he had been directing their attention,—the manner in which the ministry had met, or rather the manner in which they had *not* met the great questions now before the public. He must trespass a few moments to recur again to the University and Clergy Reserve questions. Surely these were questions of Provincial importance, if any questions deserved to be so styled. Nay, with regard to the former, the minister himself, when bringing forward the bill in 1845, had warned his friends and threatened his opponents with the most solemn announcements of the deep importance of the question, and the danger, if left undisposed of, that it might kindle a flame which should burn from one end of the Province to the other, with the most inextinguishable fury and the most devastating effects on the peace and tranquillity of the Province at large. [Cheering.] And yet, after having got over the first session—displacing one of his colleagues because he could not support it, and at the same time retaining the services of another public servant, high, or who ought to have been high in the confidence of the Administration, though he stood in a position very similar—supplying the place of the displaced member of his Cabinet with a gentleman avowedly opposed to the principles of his own measure,—he then comes down to the second session with this great measure, upon the success of which so much depended, as an

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