

Legislative Assembly in the world is to be found in the United State Senate." Jennings, an Englishman, in the *Quarterly Review*, says: "The constitution of the United States of America is much the most important political instrument of modern times." Sir Henry Mayne says: "The Senate of the United States is at this moment one of the most powerful political bodies in the world. In point of dignity and authority, it has in no wise disappointed the sanguine expectations of its founders." Gladstone himself says—and I am passing over the testimony of many other eminent men:

"As the British constitution is the most subtle organization that has proceeded from progressive history, so the American constitution is the most wonderful production ever struck off by the brain and purpose of man."

And here is what Sir John A. Macdonald said on the subject during the debates on Confederation:

"It is the fashion now to enlarge on the defects of the constitution of the United States, but I am not one of those who look upon it as a failure. I think and believe that it is one of the most skilful work which human intelligence ever created; it is one of the most perfect organizations that ever governed a free people."

HON. MR. ALMON—I think in the American Senate, Rhode Island, which is a very small State, returns two Senators, whereas New York, with population, area and resources vastly greater, has only a representation equal to that of Rhode Island. Do you wish us to have the same sort of representation for the Provinces in our Senate?

HON. MR. POIRIER—That is just the tie that has linked the United States together and has enabled the country to pass through wars that would have reduced any other country to its original fragments. The lower Chamber is directly representative of the people. Its members are elected by manhood suffrage: every one in the nation who is over 21 years of age has a vote. That is representation by population. There are two elements constituting a confederacy, the people and the privileges attaching to the States or Provinces which form the confederacy. What is the consequence? As the hon. junior member from Halifax remarked, New York, with a population of over 5,000,000, has thirty-six members in the House of Representatives, but only two in the Senate, while Rhode Island and Delaware,

which have only one or two members in the House of Representatives, have each the same representation in the Senate, as New York. Colorado, which has lately been admitted into the Union, has only one member in the House of Representatives, but has two in the Senate. In point of power, every State is equal in the upper House, and the lower House represents individuals, thereby making the Confederation truly representative of the two elements of which it is composed. The people have their own representation in the lower House according to population, and the Provinces, or States, are represented in the Senate as units of equal value. The constitution of the United States has miscarried in many ways. Even the judicial power, which has been the admiration of the old world, could not prevent the civil war. On the other hand the framers of the constitution never intended that the President should be elected directly by the people. Their idea was that he should be elected by an electorate of the second degree. But there is one institution that has remained unchanged in the United States, the Senate. It is now as it was at the commencement, and prominent English writers are obliged to admit that those who depicted the constitution of the United States in its infancy were wrong, and that the Senate of the United States is a body which deserves and commands universal admiration. Look at the bodies nominated by the Crown in other countries! Look at the House of Lords: it is falling, lowering—no one can deny it. Since the Act of 1832 the House of Lords had lost its power over people. Only last month, when Labouchère proposed in the English House of Commons to abolish hereditary government, his resolution received 139 votes and was only defeated by a majority of 62. I remember reading the report of the debate; Labouchère was of the opinion that it was as illogical to have a legislative body nominated by the Crown as it would be to have a jury selected by one of the litigants in a suit. There is one institution that has not sunk or diminished, that is the Senate of the United States. I say the same elements they have there are to be found here: we have a confederacy, as they have. What was the great objection in this country towards Confederation? The objection was, especially in the Province of Quebec,