

the Provinces, that we hold to maintain the enactments of the Federal pact, and every one knows also that no one among us has ever had the remotest desire to cowardly abandon the institutions which we live under, either to seek annexation to the United States, or to test, by a precocious and premature emancipation, an independence which would merely prove a downfall and a bondage. The world knows that we hold to live for a long time under the régime which governs us, under that colonial dependance which, as the Marquis of Lorne has remarked in England, recently, is a true independence, *minus* the heavy burdens which an absolute independence would impose on us. We enjoy, under the Empire and the Constitution which govern us, all the rights a free and independent people can wish for. We enjoy the right of governing ourselves in the fullest meaning of the word, and England extends its powerful arm to protect our liberty and defend our territory, without our being in any wise, bound to contribute to the maintenance of its army and marine.

Let us reap the benefit of this peace and security by continuing, as in the past, to develop our immense resources, to spread education among our population, to colonize our wide-spread territory, multiply our industries, and extend our commerce; and let us employ our talents and energy in strengthening and consolidating lastingly the basis of the Great Dominion inaugurated in 1867.