

choosing a Regent on its own terms, (as in 1788); a Crown co-ordinate with the Crown of Britain; a Sovereign Legislature, within its own domains, not derived from the Legislature of England, as had been solemnly asserted and admitted, in 1641, 1689, and 1782; this was the description of nationality which was extinguished in 1800, while the people of Ireland groaned under martial law, and meetings of electors were dispersed at the point of the bayonet, and yet presuming on the credulity or preoccupation of their auditors, this is the historical parallel which intelligent men—members of this House I am ashamed to say—did not hesitate to parade as an awful warning, and a case in point at the hustings in the Maritime constituencies. (cheers.) Sir, some months ago, a truly great man, on his election as Lord Rector of the University of Edinburgh in speaking of the abuses of high intelligence, was driven to ask, could there be a sadder spectacle, than “an eloquent man, speaking that which was untrue?” (Cheers.) I turn to the gentlemen who were guilty of misleading their Irish friends into hostility to this Federal Union, by false and forced parallels with the Irish Legislative Union, and I ask them in all earnestness for what purpose do they suppose did the Giver of all good gifts endow you with superior intelligence—above that of the mass of men? On what tenure do you hold those powers of expression and persuasion by voice and pen? What are the obligations of the intelligent to the unintelligent, among countrymen and fellow-citizens? Is it to trade on their prejudices, or to withstand them? Is it to foster ancient animosities and antipathies, or to abate and restrain them? Is it to tell the truth, or to pass off falsehoods for truth? (Cheers.) There can be but one answer to these questions, and I commend that answer to the authors of the unfounded parallels between the Irish Union and our Union (Cheers.) For the friends of the measure, I defy any one to show that we ever resorted to such unworthy appeals to sectional prejudices, either in the protracted debates at Quebec in 1865; or during the two elections in New Brunswick; or in Nova Scotia (hear, hear.) It is true it has been alleged elsewhere that we made use of the Fenian organization in the United States, to subserve the Union cause: it was even alleged directly, at one time, that I was instrumental in promoting the Fenian raid against Campobello, as an electioneering auxiliary to our friends in New Brunswick. If this was meant as a jest, it was a poor one; if it was seriously meant, it was a pitiful invention, of which its authors ought

to be ashamed. These were some of the prejudices against which our friends on the Atlantic had to contend; in the Province of Quebec there were not wanting sectional cries, and appeals to prejudices of creed and origin; but my honourable friend the Minister of Militia, with the moral courage which distinguishes him withstood those cries, and aided by the leading men of the British minority, he triumphed over them. In Ontario an able agitator, of whom I shall say no more in his absence than that, as I never shrunk from encountering his prejudices either as a friend or foe, neither do I exult in his defeat though much deserved, but this able man also attempted to create a sectional party—to revive rather the old and obsolete parties in his own province—and he met with his deserts. The learned gentleman at the head of the government, (Sir John A. McDonald,) met Mr. Brown and his friends on the sectional issue in Ontario, and gave them a tolerably complete overthrow. (Applause.) In this way we faced and fought every prejudice in every Province; in all but one we succeeded, and I do not at all despair, that if this Government does its duty firmly and fairly by all the Provinces, but that we shall have from that one, as the honourable Member for Guysborough, (Mr. S. Campbell,) last night assured us, a full and fair trial. (Hear, hear.) So far I have endeavoured to show that the steps taken to carry this measure were circumspectly, and constitutionally, and fairly taken; I now come to the internal merits of the Act itself; but before I proceed to that part, I must say a few words as to the circumstances immediately attending its passage through the Imperial Parliament. Sir, while I join him in that expression of very natural regret I must observe, that there was no want of interest or discussion in England generally. All the reviews, the magazines, the leading journals, were full of British American Union. The honourable member himself had plied the press vigorously while in London, and had elicited very able replies, from other Nova Scotians, also, fortunately, there at the same time; but it was quite evident to the members of the Imperial Parliament that the adoption of this measure was a foregone conclusion, and they are not apt in England, to debate matters already decided. Every statesman of every party saw the necessity for its passage; it was the measure of two administrations, and fortunately could not be made by any side a party question. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Cardwell, were as anxious for it, as Lord Carnarvon and Mr. Disraeli; one of the best speeches made in its