

served by the maintenance of the connection between Great Britain and her colonies.

"We rejoice in the connection as it exists now. It has been one of unmixed good." And again: "It is impossible to exaggerate the feeling of loyalty and affection that exists in Canada," *i. e.*, towards the Mother Country.

These are strong expressions. About as strong as can be framed in English; and they are specially significant as coming from an experienced lawyer and politician accustomed carefully to weigh his words. They are the words of the Premier of this province, spoken during the summer of 1884, only some three years ago, in the city of London, the heart of your Empire, which we are proud to remember is also the metropolis of the world. "The connection," he says, "has been one of unmixed good." "It is impossible to exaggerate the feeling of loyalty and affection that exists in Canada."

Is there a man in this hall, be he Conservative or Reformer, who is prepared to deny these statements of Mr. Mowat? Not one. There is not, I venture to say, one man present who does not from his heart fully endorse them. There is not one man present who does not know full well that there is no other political sentiment in Canada that exceeds (if indeed there be any that at all equals) in volume and intensity that sentiment of loyalty and affection to the old Mother Land, which pervades all classes of our people. There is not one man present who does not in his heart and conscience know that Canada's connection with the Mother Country has been to her a source of almost incalculable benefit and blessing. Who does not know full well that by and through that connection this noble young Canada of ours, that we all so glory in and love, has been enabled to advance by leaps and bounds towards a place in the forefront of the nations of the world, unimpeded in the progress by the jealousies or hostility of any powerful competitor? There is not a man who hears me that does not know full well that by and through that connection it is that we can stand up to-day in the face of the civilized world, and, without risk of successful contradiction, make the proud boast that, except within the confines of our own Empire, except under the sheltering folds of our own flag, there never was since the world began, there never was under the broad canopy of