

deed convince the most sceptical that the affairs of our country had arrived at such a crisis that some such action should be taken, (hear, hear,) and, ladies and gentlemen, I am sure you will agree with me in saying that those gentlemen who entered into this coalition, who, for the time at least, were willing to forget all the asperities and differences of opinion which actuated them, deserve well of our country. [Loud cheers.] And that the object of such coalition may be soon obtained, we sincerely wish, (cheers,) and that the union between those gentlemen, so happily begun, may long continue. [Hear, hear.] I therefore give you the seventh toast, a most important one indeed, not only in my opinion, but, I think I am safe in saying, in the opinion of a large majority of this great meeting, viz., "British America United for Ever." [Enthusiastic cheers.]

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND, on rising to respond to the toast, was very warmly received. He said—Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, the sentiment which you have proposed is one that at all times would afford me the greatest amount of pleasure to respond to. It is one that I would respond to not only with words, but with all the strongest feelings of my heart, and it is one that I am happy to see that this meeting thoroughly coincides with. We have evidence in the manner in which the toast has been received, that every individual present agrees with the sentiment enunciated in it. (Cheers.) But whilst I appreciate the sentiment of the toast—and I think it is the most important one you have proposed at this meeting—I have at the same time to regret that you have felt yourself constrained to call upon me to reply to it. I regret it, not because I am unwilling to respond to it to the best of my ability and power, but because I am really worn out and unable to do justice to it, as well from the effects of fatigue as from incapacity as a public speaker. But late as it is, and feeble as I am, I will not allow the occasion to pass without trespassing upon the patience of this audience in order to say a few words upon a question in which I am, and I have no doubt you are, highly interested. (Cheers.) It is a question which causes me to be where I am to-night in the position I now occupy; and it is, in my opinion, of paramount importance to the future welfare of this country, that this question—this measure of Confederation—should be consummated. (Loud Cheers.) My friend the Attorney General West, who is so well able to elucidate any question, has given you a history of the formation of what is called the coalition government. He has done that in a more able manner than I would be capable of doing it, and therefore I will not repeat any portion of it; but I will merely say this, as being due to you, being my first appearance before you, that at the formation of that coalition, I myself being a member of the Legislature and one of the representatives of the people, it became my duty in that capacity to decide upon my course of action, and I did not hesitate at that time, in common with my friends and colleagues in the Legislature, to agree to lay aside all party considerations, issues and contests, for the purpose of obtaining this object, which was looked upon by all of us as of the highest importance to the present and future welfare of this country. (Loud cheers.) It was certainly a very extraordinary spectacle,