

vinces, is a peddling affair which ought to be treated with contempt. Now, I like great schemes as much as any one, but I want to see, before I leap, where I am leaping to. (Hear, hear.) Few of us know much of the Lower Provinces, and it is full time that we knew more—but if it is found that we can make a union with them on the ground of common interest, and on terms which will be just to us and fair to them, I for one am prepared to go heartily for it. And in any case it is the purpose of the Government to put into the coming measure such clauses as will entitle the Maritime Provinces and the North-west to come into the Canadian Union on suitable terms. But that man takes a strange view of our position who says—because we cannot bring in the other Provinces into the Union, we shall not have any remedy for the evils that Canada labors under. I am free to admit that the future of the British portion of this continent is a theme fitted to arouse the most lively enthusiasm of every true Canadian. Men talk of America and the American people as if our friends of the United States monopolised the whole continent. But the truth is that the British territories cover a larger portion of North America than the whole United States—(cheers)—and though a portion of it may never be filled up, although we may not for some time stretch our outposts to the extreme north of our domains—still boundless tracts of fertile lands have yet to be thrown open to settlement and cultivation—exhaustless mineral wealth has yet to be developed—and the most extensive and valuable fisheries in the world are those of the British American Colonies. (Cheers.) Whether the day for its accomplishment has yet arrived is a fit subject of enquiry, but assuredly no Canadian has a claim to the name of statesman, who has not looked forward to the day when all the British portion of this continent shall be gathered into one. (Cheers.) It cannot be that these great Provinces shall always be permitted to hold their present relations to the mother country. We cannot expect that Britain will always, without consideration, send her navy to guard our shores. We cannot expect that British troops shall always, without consideration, stand ready to defend us against attack. We must look forward to the day when the whole of British America shall stand together; and, in close alliance and heartiest sympathy with great Britain, be prepared to assume the full duties and responsibilities of a great and powerful nation. But, gentlemen, the first step towards the accomplishment of all this, is to settle our political institutions on a sound and healthy basis—to inspire peace and harmony at home and confidence abroad. (Cheers.) It does appear to me that with the settlement of the great grievance that has so long distracted our country, a new era of prosperity will speedily open upon us. The bitter sectional strifes of the past will be forgotten—the great dividing questions of the day will be schemes of public improvement—the development of our internal navigation—the extension of our foreign commerce—the advancement of our agricultural interests—and the deeply important issues of political economy and social reform. But I am afraid I have already detained you far too long. I thank you most heartily for the attention you have given me, and for all the kindness I have received at your hands. (Cheers.) Only remember this—that a hard battle has yet to be fought—that the end is not yet gained, and can only be gained by the hearty co-operation of all the friends of those who have staked so much on the accomplishment of this great reform. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)