

ing up the great North-West. [Hear.] The opening up of these lands, Eastward and Westward, and especially Westward, will entail the inauguration of a new system of emigration. Immigration is what the New World must look to—and the fact that my hon. friend Mr. McGee is at the head of the department which has charge of that subject, must give the people confidence that emigration will be directed in the best manner for the hard-working sons of labour who come to Canada as a refuge from all parts of the world. [Cheers.] I am sure, Mr. Chairman, I ought to apologise for having detained the meeting so long. [No.] While your kindness forgives me, you will be glad to hear me conclude. [No, no.] I will only say this in conclusion, that if I rightly understand the spirit of this meeting—if I rightly understand the spirit of the people of Canada—the hopes and plans of those who think that the abolition of the Reciprocity Treaty will produce a sordid desire for Annexation, will totally fail. [Cheers.] If there are people who could be biased by considerations such as these, they are unworthy to belong to any free country on the face of the earth. But, thank God, the spirit of British institutions is instilled deep into our hearts, and a bold, manly love for freedom which forbids any such thing as that. [Cheers.] We know how to hold out the right hand of friendship, but if it is refused we know how to draw it back again. Continually have the Government of this country laboured to perform their duties to the neighbouring people, but we expect the same from them,—with less we will not be contented. While we love our institutions, we will not interfere with theirs; and while we respect theirs, we expect respect from them for ours. [Loud cheers.] The difficulties of societies create great men; out of the difficulties of nations may spring great progress. [Hear, hear.] We have been in the habit of relying too much on the mother country, and too little on our own strong right arms, and this may be a lesson that is being given us for the purpose of teaching us to be more self-reliant. We are rising into a sort of national existence—an existence we hope to see maintained for ages under the rule of the Sovereign of Great Britain. The position we shall hereafter occupy will be one of higher importance and more note in the eyes of the world than that we have hitherto held as an ordinary colony, and it will entail on us greater responsibilities. Perhaps the trial we are now undergoing, is but one of the preliminary trials which are to determine whether we are fit for such a higher state of national existence. And when I look on the countenances of the men of Stormont, Dundas and Glengary, I know that they are ready, and I have faith that all the broad country on either side of your counties' limits is ready, too, for whatever the Future may have in store. [Rounds of applause.]

The CHAIRMAN then spoke as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen, the great question of our country at the present time is the confederation of our British possessions on this continent, (hear, hear, and loud cheers,) and that it must have been considered of paramount importance, I need only refer to the present coalition ministry, (cheers,) a coalition with which all have heartily sympathised, (cheers,) and the very idea of such a coalition being formed from such opposing elements, must in-