

and that mother, great, honored and beloved by all her offspring—as I pray she be—is this sceptred isle, my native land. God bless her.' (Cheers).

SIR, THERE IS NOTHING TO DESPAIR OF,

nothing to fear, when the great citizens of a country are disposed to approach and discuss the burning issues standing in the face of two countries in such a lofty spirit, with such a large and warm heart. (Cheers.) I have no doubt but that the same sentiment of noble fellowship which animates you, animates the great American nation. (Hear, hear.) I know that such is the sentiment which animates our people in Canada. I am not here as a representative of the Canadian Government. I have not and could not have asked such a mission when I accepted your kind social invitation, but I must not forget, and you cannot ignore, that I am a member of the House of Commons of Canada, and that I have the right to convey to you the expression of the good will, of the heartfelt sympathy, and the offer of the widest possible measure of reciprocity in friendliness and good wishes from my Canadian fellow-countrymen. Yes! In Canada we rejoice in your prosperity, in your magnificent development, in your patriotic love for your flag, in your solution of some of the great problems that troubled your national existence and in your assured hope of solving them all. But we are proud, too, of our own country and our own flag, of the splendor and strength of our resources and of the well nigh boundless possibilities of our future greatness. Even as you do, we love free institutions; these we have, and they are the best suited to us and to the genius of our population. If you have a republic, we have a veritable commonwealth—'a crowned republic' as it has been happily called. You are far ahead of us in point of numbers, but we know that our people live in peace and plenty no less than yours. (Hear, hear.) And it is our hope that Canada and the United States, in friendly rivalry in all the arts of peace, in all the marts of commerce, may go on through the ages to come, the happiness and prosperity of each acting as a stimulus to the best efforts of the other, each working out a destiny of the brightest augury, and so linked in the bonds of amity and loving kindness that they may be said in the majestic words of Milton, "To progress through the great circles of revolving centuries, clasping hands with unfailing joy and bliss in overmeasure forever." (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

"Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I thank you for your kind invitation, for your cordial reception and for your patient attention. This day will remain one of the brightest of my life, and for it I will ever thank you and never forget "Providence,"

22