

existence within territories of the same nation—territories lying near to one another, alike in climate, natural productions, and the social condition of their inhabitants—the existence, he said, within such territories of a multiplicity of laws, each having a distinct, local application upon almost every question of human rights; and of a plurality of courts—each peculiarly constituted, and having its peculiar rules of practice—administering those laws, hampered the ordinary administration of justice, tended to the promotion of crime, and seriously inconvenienced commercial intercourse between the various parts of these territories; and the desirability of the contemplated Confederation was, in his opinion, greatly heightened by the certain prospect which it afforded of the removal of these grievous anomalies by means of judicious and remedial action on that score by the Federal Legislature. Independent local legislation in each of a group of Provinces or Territories so circumstanced was, in some, and those too very important, respects, a positive evil; for it could not but result in difference of laws productive of such evil results as those to which he had just adverted; and such legislation had the additional evil effect of cherishing those local prejudices and feelings of separate interests, which tend so decidedly to the estrangement of each member of a Confederation from its fellows. The Island anti-confederates had—most unjustly and ungenerously, he was again constrained to say—declared, again and again, that such of our public men as advocated Confederation had been won over to that advocacy by the corrupting influence of Canadian gold, and had basely, with a view to their own individual aggrandizement and enrichment, agreed to barter away our priceless Constitution. The charge of bribery, which had thus been boldly preferred against such of the Island Deputies to Canada as had openly avowed and advocated their convictions in favor of Confederation, were beneath contempt or notice, although it would be easy to reply that perhaps American silver or greenbacks, had not been without their corrupting and denationalizing effect amongst the anti-confederates. And he might ask these most unscrupulous calumniators, if they would dare to say that the venerable Archbishop Connolly and Bishop McKinnon, the gallant General Williams, the veteran General Doyle, or Sir James Hope, who perilled his life at the storming of the Petto Forts, in China, had been bribed into an advocacy of the projected Confederation of these Provinces?—for one of all those eminently good and great men were, he was proud and happy to say, numbered amongst the most strenuous advocates of that great project. He thought not. But as to the ridiculous assertion that the advocates of Confederation were prepared to sacrifice our priceless Constitution for the establishment of a Federal Union, it was sufficient to refer to the terms of the Quebec Scheme of that Union, which showed most clearly that nothing was farther from the minds of the Delegates who sat in the Quebec Conference than the sacrifice of their respective Provincial Constitutions. The powers which, by that Scheme, if carried into effect, would be given to the Federal Legislature were such as would neither require, nor necessitate, a nullification of the several separate Provincial Constitutions, although separate legislation under those several Constitutions would certainly be restricted to certain classes of subjects, and confined within narrower limits than those

which originally circumscribed their operation; and so happily controlled would it be by the General Government or Federal Parliament, that no rivalry of interests could spring up between different Provinces. A reference to the Union of Scotland with England, as made by the hon. member from East Point, so far from yielding arguments against the Confederation of the British American Provinces, afforded the strongest in favor of it. The great benefits of that national treaty had been generally felt and acknowledged for the last hundred years. From the period of its accomplishment, there was awakened, in Scotland, a spirit of industry and enterprise formerly unknown in that country; and, ever since, the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, incalculably to their mutual benefits, have been gradually forgetting their former subjects of discord, and uniting cordially, as one people, in the improvement and defence of their common country—the island which they inhabit. Scotland's greatest grievance, arising out of the Union, was that which she felt in the deprivation of her native and independent legislature, and her metropolis' ceasing to be the abode of royalty; and, indeed, the restoration of their national parliaments was yet eagerly desired by large sections of the populations of both Scotland and Ireland. Under Confederation, however, each of the Provinces would retain its own Legislature and Government, for the management of its own local affairs, limited in power only to such an extent as would prevent its operating in favor of its own prosperity at the expense of any of the others. Of the advantages of Union, the United States, since their attainment of independence—notwithstanding their late disastrous dislocation and narrow escape from complete dismemberment—afforded the most conclusive evidence, by their increase in area, wealth, and physical strength, having progressed, in each of these particulars, to such an extent as has excited the wonder and admiration of the world. —Some of our Island anti-confederates, had exercised their wit and talents in disparagement and ridicule of "the glory argument," as it was called; but, for his own part, he did not think that any man, either, could truly be said to have a country, or to deserve to have one, who could not rejoice and glory in the patriotic and ennobling recollections of ancestral virtues and renown. They who laughed at the glory argument knew little of what had enabled Great Britain to boast that the sun never sets upon her dominions, and that the sound of her drums has always been, either the prelude to victory, or the announcement of its glorious accomplishment. Under the glorious rule of Britain he was born, and under it he would die. To Anglo-Saxon genius no secrets of science were inscrutable; and to Anglo-Saxon perseverance, enterprise, skill, and bravery, nothing within the bounds of human power was unattainable. The practicability of a Confederation of the Provinces and Territories of British North America, to their utmost extent and limits, into a great national power, is, with respect to geographical difficulties, fast ceasing to be regarded as a mere visionary idea. The empire of which it would form the foundation, would in extent, be inferior only to those of Russia, China, and Brazil, and, in commanding position, its advantages would be equal to those of all the three combined. The people of the United States had not been slow to perceive all that; and twice, with a view to a forcible annexation of these