

Canada; sir, I admit that was one reason for the Union, and a very good and excellent reason it was; but there were other motives and influences, (foreign and domestic) at work, to the same good purpose, which may not be so patent to the popular recollection. It is astonishing how apt we are to lose sight of the influence of events in which we have not been ourselves personally concerned, and I need not take a better illustration of this fact than by asking the members of this House—all of whom must well remember the date—to carry back their thoughts to the bombardment of Fort Sumter, on the 12th of April, 1861, just five weeks after the installation of President Lincoln, at Washington. Eight years have not yet passed, and who but the actors personally engaged can now recall the successive steps by which secession rose into civil war, and civil war into an American revolution, both in a military and constitutional sense of the word revolution? Who remembers the particulars of the secession of South Carolina, of Major Anderson's first movement, or General Beauregard's first order to fire on the flag of the Union? I recollect, sir, saying at the time, in a debate on our constitutional difficulties in 1861, when we sat in Quebec, that that first shot fired at Sumter "had a message for us"—Canadians; and that that message was "to sleep no more, except upon our arms." (Hear, hear.) But if my words were then considered, as they may have been, mystical, or at least premature, they were found to have a meaning before the end that same year, when in the month of December, Captain Wilkes seized Messrs. Mason and Slidell, in the Bahama channel; when the United States Government incarcerated them in Fort Warren and the British government demanded their release. (Hear, hear.) Not only at the time of the Trent affair, but at every subsequent period of the four years' civil war, American events deeply impressed themselves on every Canadian capable of observation or reflection. We saw in those four years the improvisation of a Northern Army of 800,000 men, and a navy carrying 4,900 great guns. In the miserable affair of St. Albans; in placing armed vessels on the lakes, contrary to the treaty of 1818; in the Fenian raids; in the introduction of a vexatious system of passports; in the refusal to renew the Reciprocity Treaty, we were taught at every step how powerless we were under the old state of things; we were taught that the days of the colonial comedy of Government were over and gone, and that politics has become stern, and almost tragic for the New World. (Cheers.) We needed not

the lesson taught with such personal directness in the detestable assassination of Mr. Lincoln, and the equally atrocious murder of more recent date, when the gallant Emperor of Mexico was done to death at Querataro (hear). I do not pretend, Mr. Speaker, to discern more clearly than others the signs of the times on this side of the Atlantic, but I should consider it an insult to the intelligence of any member of this House, to undertake to show him how this revolution in the whole affected and continues to affect, these Provinces, and to render more and more necessary for them, a common Government, and a common policy (hear, hear.) The statesmen of England, accustomed to deal with affairs, far and near, were quick to learn the lessons of the civil war, and long before Lee had surrendered, Great Britain began to shape her new policy toward the United States. Sir, that new policy included the concentration of the forces and means of these Provinces, under one General Government, if the British connection was to be maintained; everyone knows that such was the condition of the connection; and, whoever values the connection, will not disparage the condition, (hear, hear.) So much, Mr. Speaker, as to the antecedents of the projected Union up to '64, and the coincident American Events, which seemed to many observers in England and the Provinces, to demand all possible expedition in its prosecution. The Quebec Conference I have already mentioned, but perhaps I may be permitted to refer again to the 33 gentlemen who came together there, to frame the outlines of this measure. I will not compare them with other assemblies held in other times and countries for similar purposes; but I will say this, for that assembly, that a more anxious and laborious body, never met to deliberate on the fate of their fellow countrymen. (Cheers). My honourable friend (Dr. Tupper) and my other honourable friend (Mr. Tilley,) were accused, I believe, of sacrificing their respective Provinces to the deep seated machinations of the so-called "Canadian party"; but, whoever had seen those gentlemen and their colleagues, in that conference, must have at all events, borne testimony to their zeal, for their own constituents (hear, hear.) Sir, I cannot recall the recollection of that assembly, now that its work is so far done, without reference to one bright and venerable name—that of the President of our body—Sir Etienne Taché, (hear, hear.) Those who remember that gallant old French Canadian gentleman, need not be reminded how far he was above lending his unsullied name to any miserable intrigue or corrupt