

## INTRODUCTION

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any moment to wreck their party and ruin their country, so far as in them lies, because Snook's Corners was in some way preferred to Oddlots by the central government, and to congratulate themselves and their constituency upon the possession of so faithful a member. Then there are the provincially hidebound. They are very common even now in Canada. There are men of great public spirit who hold their province so close up to their eyes that their vision of the Dominion is obscured. What is for the good of the whole cannot but be for the good of all its component parts, else it is not a whole, but a mere fortuitous collection of separate and hostile atoms.

Every country possesses these types of character I have described as unconscious traitors, but Canada, or what was to be Canada, was at the time of Confederation so bogged and enmeshed in their pernicious activities that only the preternatural patience of Sir John A. MacDonald and the brute force of Sir Charles Tupper brought us through at all. In fact, the internecine dissensions had gone so far that they reacted against themselves. Many sup-