

To the Electors of the District of Yale:

GENTLEMEN:—

As there are now many voters in the District who may not have had an opportunity of knowing the position I have taken in times past on matters affecting the interests of our District and the Province generally, I have been advised to publish a few of my efforts in the present form.

F. J. BARNARD.

SPEECH ON CONFEDERATION DELIVERED AT
A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT YALE ON
THE 9TH DAY OF APRIL, 1868.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN:—The object of this respectable gathering is one which may well claim the earnest attention of every colonist. The great movement which we are convened to-night to consider is one fraught with the deepest interest to millions yet unborn. The mind naturally travels back to that memorable and most impressive occasion, that incident which must ever occupy a prominent place in the history of the American continent, the landing of the "Pilgrim Fathers" upon Plymouth Rock—men who left home and kindred and crossed the Atlantic in search of that freedom denied them in the old world. Britain, the most successful colonizing nation in the world, has ever proved the most illiberal and cruel to her younger colonies. This may appear paradoxical; yet it is none the less true, borne out, as it is, by the history of every British colony. Look at the experience of these same Pilgrim Fathers—Fathers of America. To what grinding exactions and oppressive political thralldom were they and their descendants subjected. See how they were vexed and persecuted and hindered in a noble effort to plant a British nation in the new world. Notwithstanding the eloquent pleadings and reiterated warnings and

protestations of a Pitt, see how they were goaded on, and on, until even their extraordinary powers of endurance and characteristic forbearance and fortitude gave way, and the yoke of the task-master was rudely cast off, the standard at once of liberty and revolt was raised. Thirteen of as fine colonies as ever owed allegiance to the British Crown, rendered desperate by misrule, unwillingly, but impelled by stern necessity, severed the link which united them with the paternal Government, and declared their independence. The remarkable history of the new nation thus brought into existence, affords the best proof of the loss sustained by the British Crown, through a long series of the most inexcusable and disgraceful misrule. One would have imagined that, profiting by experience so costly, the colonial policy of our nation would have at least undergone material modification, and that colonies subsequently formed would have enjoyed immunity from that oppression which had such a disastrous culmination. But the history of Canada would seem to forbid such a conclusion; for it was not until the rebellion of 1837 that Canada's hardy sons were permitted to enjoy those free institutions which have in thirty years raised her to the prosperous and proud position which she occupies to-night. That rebellion was palliated if not excused in the able report of Lord Durham; and from that bloody baptism