

lie man, and as a gentleman; as one from whom we have ever received valuable and ready assistance in the furtherance of every good object for the advancement of our social prosperity and progress, and in admiration of your patriotism and promptitude at the call of duty in hastening to the front with your command to repel the Fenian invader, and for your long continued and disinterested exertions.

Hoping you will be long spared in honor amongst us, and with warmest expressions of good wishes for Mrs. Fraser and family, I have the honor of presenting you with this expression of regard and to beg of its acceptance.

I have the honor to be,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed.)

JAMES MILLS.

On behalf of the Non-commissioned Officers and Men of No. 4 Company.

As the company, with good taste and correct feeling, kept the whole preparation of this very valuable present and address a secret, Captain Fraser was completely taken by surprise; his impromptu reply, however, shows that although astonished he was not taken at a disadvantage:

GENTLEMEN,—I hardly know how to reply to you on this unlooked for token of generous regard which you this evening have presented me with. I can assure you that under existing circumstances, "In a manner almost taken by surprise," I feel almost at a loss what to say. However, I must confess that I cannot but feel proud of the reception of so beautiful and chaste a token, not only for its intrinsic worth, but for the expression of gratitude and good feeling manifested by so many friends, as the present fully exemplifies. With regard to the captaincy of the gallant company, to which I have the honor of being attached, and as to the sudden calls which from time to time have issued from headquarters, to keep sacred our country's rights and drive the enemy from her shores, I feel not only happy but proud to say, not only in my own name, but in that of the company, that each summons or call to duty, was at once responded to without hesitation, and each and every man anxious and willing to do his duty: a feeling, gentlemen, which we all, not only as true patriots, but as faithful subjects, owe to our glorious Queen and country.

With regard to the position which I hold as Reeve of this township, I feel it to be a position of great responsibility and honor, inasmuch as the township of Fitzroy, is second to none in the Valley of the Ottawa; it will therefore be my aim to sanction any project which may tend to its further advancement.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I thank you for the good wishes manifested towards Mrs. Fraser and family, and rest assured that this beautiful memento will ever be treasured and appreciated as a testimonial of your esteem and respect.

Kind sir and friends, I again thank you gratefully.

The whole of this affair is creditable to all the parties concerned—the Canadian army having no better representatives than Captain Fraser, the officers and men of the Fitzroy Company.

Montreal is to be enlivened by 600 sparrows which are to be brought out from England shortly.

The idea of a federation of the Colonies of the British Empire, the precedent for which was established by Canada four years ago, has been revived, and is likely to meet with more favor than Earl Granville was disposed to accord to it some time ago. The principle of extending the measure so as to include the British Islands has been largely discussed, and to thinking men it appears to be the only mode of consolidating the mighty power of the British Empire. At present that power is diffused through a large number of States, in such a manner that it is practically unavailable, but with a federation every colony and community would be able to devote a proportion of its strength for national defence or aggrandisement and thus enable the whole to act with effect. It is well known that the affairs of the empire are rapidly outgrowing the possibility of management by the Imperial Parliament, and that the men composing it are below their predecessors in that high tone of feeling, education and knowledge of the social or political conditions of the Colonies necessary for those who aspire to legislate for or direct the destinies of the great dependencies of the British Crown. That the constant lowering of the British constitution to the Democratic standard, as understood in Great Britain, renders it impossible that a representative body there could in any case be in accord with colonists who recognize in the Crown the tie which binds them to the empire; and therefore in order to preserve that form of constitutional monarchy intact, which all the great Colonies have proved and prefer, it will be necessary to recast so much of the existing British polity as will give them fair representation in the councils of the empire.

It would appear that the mode best adapted to subserve this great end would be the creation of a grand council of the empire, to consist of two houses—an upper and lower—the former nominated by the Crown and called by writ, as the present House of Lords, the latter elected by the people from existing electoral divisions; but the numbers in both houses to be strictly proportioned to population at home and in the Colonies. The powers of such council to be that of the foreign policy of the empire—the questions of defence and all the higher legislation, such as granting constitutional powers, the enforcement, enactment, or revision of general laws, and all the powers of a general court of appeal for the whole empire. In fact, the functions of the British Parliament apart from domestic legislation.

From this grand council a ministry should be formed in the usual way, that is, having a decided majority in both houses—those should be the responsible advisers of the Crown. Moreover, the grand council should apportion to each part of the empire its allotment of taxes to be raised for general purposes of defence, as well as its contingents of men and ships. The British Parliament should be delegated to its proper

duties—domestic legislation. And the Irish difficulty might be solved by granting a local parliament for the same purpose. There could be no clashing of interests, as the nation would be represented in the grand council, and the management of local affairs could be as safely intrusted to them as to any Canadian Province. This scheme would not interfere with existing arrangements, and there can be no doubt that its effects on the present and future of the empire would be most beneficial. It is by no means a new idea, but the extended practical application of an old one.

In July, 1755, a meeting of the Governors of the Thirteen Colonies (now the United States) was held at Albany, and a proposition made for a federation of the Provinces, under a President General. Its advantages were obvious to those who took the trouble to analyze the then existing relations of those Colonies to Great Britain and each other; but that "ape in politics," the Duke of Newcastle, would not listen to the scheme, as a consequence twenty years later saw the commencement of a ruinous and disgraceful war, which resulted in Great Britain's humiliation and the creation of a powerful, unscrupulous and vindictive enemy. She has now another great Colony, covering more than half the North American continent, with exhaustless resources, who have successfully carried out the idea of 1755, whose evident mission is to checkmate the movements of her adversary, and whose political status as the fourth naval power of the world renders her worthy of a place in those councils which involve the happiness, or otherwise, of one fourth of the human race. Other Colonies as well will look on the solution of this great problem with the interest it inspires, recognizing in it one of the grandest political questions which has come before the world in modern days. To us who live in view of ultra democracy and are not in love with the monstrosity, this question possesses a singular and absorbing interest, our future depending on it to a great extent; it being the means by which the ties that bind us to the empire will be strengthened, a heritage of stable government and institutions bequeathed to our children, and the progress of civilization accelerated.

It is true that no country ever became commercially great without being warlike. History has no record of commercial prosperity after the loss of military power. To the mere trader or merchant the idea of war is odious, because it has a tendency to interfere with his gains, and we find that wherever, as a class, they have been enabled to control the State its inevitable decay immediately followed. Holland is the most noted modern example of this principle; two centuries ago that country was the successful rival of England in war and commerce. The death of her great Stadtholder, William III. of England, enabled the burghers of Amsterdam to seize the reins of power