

eration, would never have taken place; for a like commission is, if I may so express myself, like the sword of Damocles, which hangs over the head of our employés who may attempt to abuse their trust. Yes, hon. gentlemen, if I were called to give advice to the Government, I would say if they are conscious of their duty, that if they have the instinct of self-preservation, they should name for public offices only men who are above questions of sect or caste or party, only men who do not belong to any of those secret societies which are the nightmare of Governments; for with some exceptions, to see them and to hear them, one would say that we are not, as they, called to breathe the same air, to drink the same water, to nourish ourselves on the products of the same soil. I know, hon. gentlemen, that in certain questions of detail there can, and there ought to be some diversity of opinion, such as we cannot exchange, but at the same time not of such a kind as would prevent use from walking arm in arm or prevent us all acting everywhere but as one man, or what we call in common *parlance*, each putting a little water in his own wine. If it were not so, there would not be in any of the parties a spark of that patriotism which shone with such lustre in the ancient citizens of Rome and Carthage. If it were so, I could predict, I could assure both to the governed and to those who govern happy days, days of prosperity, of glory and contentment. Hon. gentlemen, shall I speak of Imperial Federation, for which the present High Commissioner of the Government has just accepted an honorable position in London, perhaps also one more or less lucrative. With regard to this question: Hon. gentlemen, I ought to make you acquainted with my surprise; first, in the Session before the last, I was much astonished to see the young son of the ex-Minister of Finance, who sits in the Commons, near the Ministerial benches, leave the capital of the Dominion to go to advocate in the capital of Ontario the cause of the partisans of Imperial Federation, and that against the clearly expressed ideas of his illustrious father, in a speech which he delivered in London before finishing his first term as High Commissioner of the Dominion to return to take the office of Minister of Finance. Since then I have been surprised to learn from the London journals that the

present High Commissioner of the Canadian Government, on arriving in London to begin his second term, had delivered a speech *quasi* against and *quasi* in favor of Imperial Federation. Then, I said: Is it possible that Sir Charles Tupper yielded to the favors of Albion's influence, or, rather, it may be that the perfidious advice that Lord Durham gave to England in his pamphlet with regard to his sojourn in Canada could be applied to him? No; I do not believe it; and if ever Sir Charles Tupper did become the victim of that application, perhaps a little too severe, I have the hope that the muse of history will do for him what it did for the Prince of Muscovy, and that she will engrave on his tomb the same redeeming epitaph: "*Ci gissent vingt-cinq années de gloire et un jour d'erreur.*" But, hon. gentlemen, if I had fears and apprehensions at the sight of some of my own compatriots as well as some fellow citizens of foreign origin, who appear to me disposed to follow the example of those members of the Irish Parliament, who eighty-nine years ago sold their autonomy for a mess of lentils, I have been relieved of all fears by the conduct of the late leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, the Hon. Mr. Blake, who peremptorily refused to speak in favor of Imperial Federation, and also by the conduct of the leader of the Ontario Government, that faithful guardian, the father of the provincial autonomy of the Provinces, who, in one of his speeches, which he delivered in London immediately after Sir Charles Tupper, and after that unlucky advocate of our Government, Dalton McCarthy, who for the fourth time had received a castigation before Her Majesty's Privy Council, relative to the violation of provincial rights and privileges, had told them that he could not comprehend, that he could not explain, that he could not conceive how Canadians, who aspired to the greatest liberty, would bury those which they already possess in Imperial Federation. Then he said to the unhappy advocate of the Government, Dalton McCarthy, that the title of colonel of a Canadian regiment had nothing humiliating in it, but that on the contrary it was desirable, that to him it was an enviable title, and that he would consider it more glorious to become the First Minister of the Dominion than to be President of the United States. But hon.