

The CHAIRMAN called on

MR. MORRIS, M.P.P. for South Lanark, to propose the toast of The Press, and in rising to do so, he said, the early hour of the morning warned him to forbear any remarks, and simply to propose the toast. (Cries of no, no, go on.) Possibly, his friends thought they had a claim upon him, as he had, as they knew, many relatives in Cornwall, and therefore he would, in deference to the wish of the audience, indulge in a remark or two; and first, he would remind some of his friends, that the meeting was by no means exclusively Scottish, but that, on the contrary, the Irish and the Dutch elements were largely represented. (Cheers.) But to be brief, he would say that this great gathering, assembled irrespective of party, for both parties were there (cheers,) had, at this great crisis in the history of our country, a real meaning and significance, and he thought he read that meaning aright when he interpreted it as being that the large assemblage now met desired to declare in the most emphatic way, and to ask the Press to wait the message, alike across the ocean to the shores of Britain and to the neighbours across the frontier, in the American Union, that, while Canadians desired to live in harmony with their neighbours, yet, the British American people, true to their lineage, had resolved to tell the world that British freemen never would sell their birth-right for a mess of American pottage. [Loud cheers.] And with regard to the question of Reciprocity he desired to take the opportunity to say that he thought, as a part of the empire, British North America had been bound first, in view of duty to the mother country, to entrust negotiation, in the way of concession within reason, and having failed in that, then it was their duty to fall back upon their self-reliance—to develop their resources—to open new channels of trade and to find in close Colonial Union the means of retaining and advancing upon their present position. [Cheers.] But, in conclusion, as the time was speeding on, he had great satisfaction in proposing the Press of Canada. The Press was a credit to the Province; scarce any country had a Press which reached the whole community so extensively as the Press of Canada, and besides it was an active, intelligent, enterprising and independent Press. Its influence told, and had reason to tell, on our whole community, and he therefore had great pleasure in proposing “The Press of Canada.” [Cheers.]

Responded to by Mr. OLIVER of Cornwall, and Mr. CHAMBERLIN of Montreal.

The whole affair was a brilliant success—the arrangements such as reflected the greatest credit on the members of the Committee.