

unfair to British taxpayers. Mr. Thos. Cave, member for Barnstaple, denounced the whole thing as 'a colossal job,' and, with reference to Mr. Adderley's remark that the proposed Railway would render Canada entirely independent of the United States (not a very acute remark, it must be confessed) said that he did not see what interest England could have 'in so entirely severing the Canadians from the United States. He thought the safety of that country consisted in friendly communication with the United States.' Be this as it might, 'It would be better to have the whole onus of its defence thrown upon Canada itself. If, instead of giving £3,000,000 with a view of separating it from the United States, we were to give £10,000,000 to join and unite them it would be more patriotic.' Did these sentiments provoke a perfect storm of indignation in the House of Commons? By no means; nobody was moved to indignation at all, and Mr. Gladstone who followed did not think it necessary to do more than repel the insinuation of jobbery that Mr. Cave had (of course most unjustly) thrown out. As regards the significance to be attached to the proposed guarantee, he said (page 752) that, 'far from considering it as an expression of the will and readiness of any government of this country or of Parliament to undertake additional responsibility with respect to the ordinary work of the defence of the Province of Canada, he placed on it *an exactly opposite construction*, and, but for that opposite construction, he should find it impossible to justify the proposal now made. He looked on this guarantee as auxiliary to the great work of Confederation, the purpose of which was the development of the resources of the colonies, and, along with that, the gradual and speedy development of their self-reliance.' England had long occupied, he went on to say, a false position in regard to colonial defence,

shouldering our burdens and doing our thinking for us just as if these colonies 'were not inhabited by an intelligent and free population.' The way to escape from this false position was 'to give a higher civil and political position to these communities themselves.' The only officer in the colonies appointed by the Colonial Secretary was the Governor; and Mr. Gladstone believed that 'if it were the well-ascertained desire of the colonies to have the appointment of their own governor, the Imperial Parliament would at once make over to them that power.' The British North America Act had been passed 'with a promptitude which, *if it had been a measure affecting ourselves*, would have been precipitancy.' This was, however, 'an acknowledgment of the title of these colonies to deal practically with their own affairs,' and it was hoped that the result would be 'the development along that great extent of territory of a *stronger sense of political existence*, more self-reliance and more self-reliant habits.' England had herself in the past weakened the self-reliance of the colonies by too visibly taking them under her protection; and the way to remedy that was now 'to raise their political position to the very highest point, in order that with that elevated position their sense of responsibility may also grow. The system of vicarious defence—the system of having the burden of its frontier defence borne by another—*enervates and depresses the tone of the country in which it prevails*; and its withdrawal is necessary in order to bring the country to the full possession and enjoyment of freedom.'

Then followed Mr. Lowe, now Lord Sherbrooke, who objected (page 760) to the guarantee precisely because it was represented as being 'auxiliary to Confederation.' The British North America Act had been passed with the expedition commented on by Mr. Gladstone, just because Parliament felt it was a matter with which it had