

the United Kingdom form the British Empire. (Cheers.) I have on two occasions had the pleasure of visiting Canada, and I have had the opportunity of making the acquaintance of many of her leading statesmen, and notably of the late Sir John Macdonald, that most Imperially-minded man (cheers), whose guiding idea throughout his long political life was to maintain intact the local independence of Canada in close alliance with the mother country. (Cheers.) I think that at times he had no easy task. (Hear, hear.) There were prominent men on both sides of the Atlantic who at one time assumed that the manifest destiny of Canada was to be absorbed into the great Republic on its southern frontier. ("No, no"; "Never.") That was the opinion. (Hear, hear.) It is an ancient controversy, and I do not think it necessary to refer to it to-night except to mark the contrast between the doubt and hesitation of those days and the determination now of every son of Canada to maintain his local institutions, his separate identity, and at the same time to draw closer the bonds which unite him to the great parent State. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.)

CANADIAN LOYALTY.

The recent isolation of the United Kingdom, the dangers which seemed to threaten us, have evoked from all our colonies, and especially from Canada, an outburst of loyalty and affection which has reverberated throughout the world, which has had a great effect, and which testifies to a sentiment that is deeper than words can express. (Cheers.) We have been told by cynics that these expressions of loyalty and affection are superfluous—that they are the ornaments of after-dinner oratory ("No, no"), but that they would not bear the test and trial of serious conflict, that if a war should ever arise the mother country would be left to her fate ("No, no"), and that the colonies would take care of themselves. That idea, at any rate, must have been dispelled by what has recently happened. (Hear, hear.) The shadow of war did darken the horizon, and to none of her Majesty's subjects was that shadow more ominous than it was to our fellow citizens in Canada; but there was no hesitation, although, if that had happened which would have been abhorrent to all of us, the brunt in the first instance would have fallen on Canada. A unanimous voice went up from the people and Parliament of Canada to say that this matter, although it did not directly affect their interests, yet affected the honour of the British Empire, and they made common cause with us. (Cheers.) They were prepared to stand shoulder to shoulder and to bear their share in all the evils that might come upon us. Their decision was emphasized in