

For the rest, it may be that the men of '63 hilled better than they knew. The sapling they planted promises to become a mighty tree. The Confederation, of which they laid the foundations, will, I think, soon take its place amongst the foremost nations of the world. But, I would say to the men of to-day, that if they are the heirs of this vast heritage, vaster, richer, more fertile and possessing more abundant resources than any of us even to-day can know, they will do well to recollect it is due in a very large measure to the men who, in 1863, in a time of great storm and stress, had, nevertheless, this great merit, that they did not despair of the republic and were able at no small sacrifice of their personal feelings and no small sacrifice of their personal interests, to carry out the scheme of Confederation which they proposed. Sir, I doubt very much whether what these men did, the circumstances under which they did it and why they did it, have been altogether fully and properly appreciated. I hope that in the future history will do them justice, and if, Mr. Chairman, it be possible, that I have been fortunate enough in the few words I have addressed to you to-day to bring about a fuller recognition of those men's merits, all I can say is that I shall feel myself most amply repaid for any little trouble I have taken.

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