

these gentlemen refused to go along with me? (Hear, hear.) Had I done so—had I refused to aid the Government and the negotiations had been broken off—a general election must have followed, and truly I would have found myself in a most untenable position. Mr. John A. Macdonald and his friends would have gone to the country saying: “Here is a party who have been declaring that they wanted Representation by Population above all other measures—we were prepared to give it to them, and they flatly refused to aid us. Here are men who profess to have so much at heart the interests of Upper Canada—we gave them an opportunity of getting justice to Upper Canada, such as may not recur for twenty years to come, and they refused to touch it.” Had I taken such a course, I would have deserved to be banished from public life forever. But, I am told, “Oh! Mr. Brown is splitting up the Reform party.” And very funny it is to observe from what quarter this objection comes. Does it come from those who have always been Reformers? Not a bit of it—but mainly from men who have come into the ranks within the last few years. (Hear, hear.) I am free to say that I look upon party alliances as formed for the good of the whole people, and the moment they stand in the way of the well-being of the country, they become an injury and not a blessing. And did my party or fifty parties stand in the way of obtaining this great measure of redress for Upper Canada, I should rend all party ties asunder without a moment’s hesitation. (Cheers.) I have faith enough in the Reform electors of Upper Canada to believe they will thoroughly comprehend that in going into this Coalition, it has been done with a sincere desire to advance the peace and prosperity of our country, and that they will think with me to place this great work of reform in the balance with a momentary party advantage, would be but paltry statesmanship. (Cheers.) But I am told that the whole negotiation is a piece of deception; that Mr. John A. Macdonald and Mr. Cartier are merely pulling the wool over Mr. Brown’s eyes—(laughter)—without the slightest intention of carrying out what they solemnly agreed to. Now, so far from there being any truth in this imputation, I am bound to say that all the parties to the negotiations, from first to last, have acted in the most candid, sincere and honourable manner. (Hear, hear.) And those sceptical gentlemen, who are so much afraid of being deceived, will please carry this away with them—that, if the combination had broken down the very day it commenced, or were it to break down to-day, or a week, or a month, or three months hence, more good would have been already accomplished by it than would be a sufficient compensation for all the loss and evil which could possibly result, were the fears of these sceptical gentlemen realized. (Hear, hear.) By this movement the leading public men in the country have been committed to do justice, immediate justice, to Upper Canada—all the great political parties have committed themselves to the admission that a great evil exists, and that a remedy must speedily be provided,—and more than that, we have now an acknowledged remedy formally placed on record, agreed to by a Conservative Cabinet, endorsed by both political parties, and sanctioned by Her Majesty’s representative. (Cheers.) The final accomplishment of this great reform may be deferred—but it must go forward—it cannot now go back. (Cheers.) But I am told that our scheme is un-British. I have here some extracts to show you that, if the scheme be un-British, it has at all events been assented to by some of the foremost of British statesmen. The first person of eminence who declared in favour of a Federal system as regards the two Canadas, was no less a statesman than William Pitt. When the Constitutional Act was before the Imperial Parliament in 1791, Mr. Pitt used the following language:—