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the capital, which for various causes are now seeking new homes and employment, a country possessing more advantages than any other on this continent. I do not believe that the United States can continue for any great length of time to absorb the redundant population of Europe, subject as they are to very high rates of taxation. If on the other hand we in Canada, or, I would rather say, in British North America, are able to offer those people land of equal fertility, and at least equal security for life and property, and if at the same time we can shew them that every article that enters into ordinary consumption can be bought very much cheaper here than in the United States, I think we may reasonably hope to be able to attract to our shores much of that immigration which of recent years has swelled more than anything else the wealth and prosperity of the neighbouring republic. We are entering on a new state of political existence. If there is any prominent feature in the future we have designed for ourselves, it is the establishment of a separate and distinct nationality; and this can only be accomplished in one way. If we are in every respect to copy the policy of our neighbours across the line of 45°, the natural course would be to become one with them. But if, on the other hand, we believe, as we do all believe, that the continent of North America is sufficiently extensive for two nations, two empires, then it is time that, taking lessons from those great authorities on political economy who have shed light on the commercial transactions of Europe during the last few years, we should endeavour so to adjust our system that we may be able to invite immigrants here, telling them that this is a better country, and governed by wiser principles, than the country along our borders. At the same time the advances we may make in this direction cannot fail to be acceptable to our friends of the Maritime Provinces. If the Government supposed that the policy we were submitting to the House and the country to-night would have a prejudicial effect on the great question of Confederation, we should hesitate very much before proposing it. But we feel convinced that in approximating our system to that of England, and thereby levying our duties more in accordance with those of the Lower Provinces, so far from creating difficulties in the way of our union, we are removing obstructions from its path, and taking away from the adversaries of Confederation in those Provinces some of the arguments with which they have been accustomed to combat the project; and, moreover, if it is necessary to make further changes in assimilating our tariffs—and it can scarcely be supposed that the system of taxation which Canada adopts now will be adopted without any change by the other Provinces—then we shall have the satisfaction of having come much nearer to the point at which we can mutually agree, and the shock arising from the change and the interference with business will be much less than if we postpone any alteration of our system until we have to make a complete change of it in all its parts. I think too that a change in this