

precedent in the history of nations can be found where the outlying fragments of an Empire, sinking their mutual rivalries and petty jealousies, agreed to unite and become consolidated, to contribute their fair quota for common protection and defence, and in their newly acquired aspect to maintain their allegiance to the parent state. In order to accomplish such a purpose it may well be supposed that leading rival statesmen of the several Provinces have been called upon to make great personal and political concessions and sacrifices. Such has been the case, and without it by no possibility could the success that has attended this great effort have been secured. And will you, will the people of Great Britain—will her Parliament or her Government, at this stage, coldly and suspiciously regard a measure and a mission they have all along encouraged? Will they say to the representatives of four millions of people now here in England, intent on the accomplishment of a project, with which the interests of half a Continent are identified, will they say—retire for the present, and return, and we will hear you at some more convenient season? Most assuredly not. No suspicion lurks in the minds of any of those who have been entrusted with the high and delicate duties of settling with the Government and Parliament the details of the Act of Confederation, which is to perfect the contemplated Union, that such is be the upshot of the matter. No reason exists for supposing that such a reply will be given; on the contrary, the press of this country as a whole, and almost without exception,—the great metropolitan organ leading,—has had nothing but kind words of encouragement for all engaged in bringing about Confederation, and of approval of the project itself. If, however, on the contrary, and at this stage of progress, by severe exactions, captious objections, or technical exceptions, a disposition should be manifested to bluff off the delegates, to undervalue their mission, or to cripple them by withholding such reasonable countenance or aid as may be indispensable to work out the project, then, depend upon it, at these Imperial gates no messengers from British America will ever return to knock. Then indeed in every state of the American Union, from Maine to Mexico, there would be high holiday, and joy and rejoicing. Then, the policy of abrogating the reciprocity treaty would be considered as