

tion. It will not be by opposition to established rights, or by violence to political sentiment; not by upheaval of old institutions, or revolutionary or sudden changes giving a shock to old feelings and sensitivities, that we may hope to attain stability. Rather we must look to the process of evolution, to the adoption of means to amend by wise statemanship; content with results, of which the consequences if slow, are sure. It is by the observance of these conditions we may hope for unity and peace and the permanency of our political relationship in the future. The British Empire so developed will possibly bear some resemblance to the banyan tree, of which the main branches themselves become trunks around the parent stem; each individual branch bearing its own fruit, while the whole of the offshoots remain indissolubly connected, to give mutual support and to afford common protection to all seeking shelter beneath the shadow of its widespread foliage. (Applause.)

I can see no cause why the Imperial Federation League need be looked upon with doubt or suspicion by any, excepting such as are hostile to connection with Great Britain, or who seek to dismember the Empire. There need be no fear that any step will be rashly taken. It will be impossible for us to advocate successfully any policy inconsistent with civil and religious freedom. We may rest satisfied that no principle of right or justice will be violated, that no constitutional changes can come into force which will not in every respect be unimpeachable. No scheme, however well matured, can come to be recognized without being accepted and confirmed by the people and country affected by its operation. I feel warranted in saying that no topic for consideration involving issues of equal magnitude can be brought before Her Majesty's subjects in any one of the four continents. The report which has been read sets forth that the Canadian people are becoming alive to its importance. We rejoice to learn that the Canadian Government has taken a wise and practical step by which the objects which the league has in view will be advanced. It is not possible to presage the good results which may be the outcome of the Intercolonial Conference, which there is every prospect will soon be held in this city. (Hear, hear.)