

whose devotion to the empire has borne the test of sixty years of eminent services in the paths of literature, and who to-day would be an honored guest in the homes of the highest public men in England, has ventured to express the opinion that the true interests of the empire and of Canada alike would be promoted by a union of English-speaking people on this continent. For this he has been bespattered with mud by blatant loyalists, who were thinking of nothing but the interests of their party. Mr. John V. Ellis, ex-M.P. for St. John in his newspaper mildly presented a similar view, and a partizan howl was sent up that he had violated the oath which he had taken as a member. Mr. Ellis violated no oath, but, if he did he was in good company, for John

Bright violated the same oath and in the same fashion, under the very eye of Her Majesty, and in the heart of her dominions, and no person said aught.

Let the discussion go on, and let it be fair. Let there be no gag law. Let there be no attempt to dragoon a free people into a detestable hypocrisy and a mean concealment. If there be any men in Canada who believe in political union with the United States let them speak their minds freely. If they are wrong, the Imperialist will have the grateful task of exposing their fallacies. One end and one only should be kept in view on this subject—a full and honest discussion and a sober and wise decision by the Canadian people upon the question of the destiny of the Canadian people.

