

party—some explanations of the course we have taken and of the reasons of the course we intend to take. Sir, if I mistake my position here, I have nothing more to say; but if the convention desire to hear what I have to say I will with pleasure go on. (Cheers and cries of "go on.") Now, sir, the history of the reform party, I am quite safe in saying, shows that we are not as a party altogether unanimous. I see by the speeches that have been delivered to-night that you are not unanimous even here on some questions. The history of our party shows that there have been times when gentlemen occupying a prominent position in it, members of the legislature and of the press of the country have, acting upon their own responsibility, taken a course which has not met the approval of other gentlemen holding an equally prominent position in the party. Mr. Brown, who is an able man and conducts a powerful press, has in times past denounced public men—some of whom I see in this hall and some in the gallery—trying to secure their defeat at one time and at other times supporting them, sometimes upon one issue and at other times upon another and different issue. (Hear, hear.) I suppose that the majority of this meeting will admit that when he was acting thus inconsistently, when he was found supporting conservative candidates at the polls in preference to reformers, he was acting honestly and according to his convictions, and that he believed what he was doing was for the interest of the country. I admit that; but his opinions on those occasions did not agree with mine nor with the opinions of many other members of the party. Now we have come, I think, come to a position in which a question of the greatest gravity is presented to the reform party of Western Canada. Sir, I do not claim that unbounded applause which the honorable gentleman, Mr. Brown, asks of you and

the people of the country for the success of the cause which he says you have come here to-day to celebrate. I have taken it is true, a very humble part in that work and at the same time I claim to have done what I did with zeal, integrity and an earnest intention to secure for my country a constitution the working of which would relieve us from the difficulties under which we have labored for many years. I claim to have had a desire to—and I believe it will be accomplished—given to Upper Canada, not to the reform party only, its rights. The reform party as a party has never been denied its rights. (Ironical cheers and cries of "no.") I say that as a party it had its rights—it had to struggle at the polls and labour to succeed by convincing people that its principles and policy were right—but Upper Canada as a whole, conservatives and reform, has been denied its rights. Under the constitution, and the mode in which it worked, we have not had that influence in the government and we have not had those laws to which, in the opinion of our people, we were justly entitled. But the constitution which has just been conceded to us be the Imperial Parliament will, we believe, if fairly carried out, give us that position and influence in the affairs of British North America and in the government of these provinces to which we were entitled by our numbers, our intelligence and our wealth. (Cheers.) Now, gentlemen, I am something of a practical politician and I know that you have met here for a practical purpose. I have been connected with the press for many years, and know how these are arranged and conducted, and I see that there is a very large number in this assemblage, probably a majority who have come here with their minds made up to pursue a particular course and to affirm particular proposition. I am unwilling as a member of the reform party to pin my political faith upon the decision of this or