

ardently coveted, so bravely contested with gallant competitors; I now, in the name of my people and by the advice of my Imperial Parliament, transfer to you and yours, to have and to hold, to make or mar—to build up or to break down.

(Loud cheers.) Her Majesty might have so spoken on the passage of the Union Act,—and if deeds were as vocal as words, (which they often are to those who understand their dialect,) such a speech has actually been delivered to us, by the head of the Empire, and it is to take that speech, as well as this into consideration we are assembled here. (cheers.) Sir, this is not the continuation of any former legislature; nor are we here, least of all, as one Province men; we are here, if in good faith, as members of one Dominion, Puissance, of “new nationality” so constituted by a deliberate and well considered Act of the Sovereign, to begin a new set of journals, which we all trust may become the precious records of a great, free people. (Cheers.) I regretted much to hear my honourable friend from Hants, for so (notwithstanding certain hard sayings during his late hustings’s campaign, I presume to call him); I regretted much to hear him so repeatedly use the terms, whenever he spoke, “your country” and “my country.” This Act by virtue of which we were summoned here, in the Queen’s name, constitutes us, so far as a Constitutional Act can, one country; we are all here, every man of us, if in bona fides, which I do not doubt, to legislate for the four Provinces (and all British America, ultimately) as one country; and the hour that we passed that bar, to take the oath of Membership in the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, we assumed the character of fellow-countrymen even more bindingly, than we had it before. The honourable member and those who may agree with him, have already made their election in coming here; they have already acknowledged the Union, and sealed their acceptance of it with a most solemn oath; they cannot, therefore, be in the Union and out of it, at one and the same time; and my respectful suggestion to the gentlemen of that opinion is, that they should give it the adhesion which they have given, cheerfully, and gracefully as the honourable members from Westmoreland and Guysborough did when they spoke, and so let us proceed, to hold common council for a common country. (Cheers.) This Act says: “Canada shall be divided into four Provinces, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.” I sincerely trust the honourable members have no insurmountable prejudice against accepting the common name of

Canada and Canadian. (Hear, hear.). If British America could have been condensed into one word; if it were equally indigenous, euphonious, and applicable, to all sections of our population, many would have preferred it; if the title of Nova Scotia could have been with propriety extended westward, I for my part, should have cheerfully accepted it, for I have a strong historical and personal feeling of attachment, for old Scotia and new Scotia. But of the names from which we were free to choose, there was none so indigenous, so euphonious, and so applicable, and without disrespect to the other Provinces, there was none so illustrious as Canada. (Cheers.) For three centuries—whether under French or English domination—the valley of the St. Lawrence has been the stage of great men, and the theatre of great actions; Canada is a name familiar to all educated people in England, France, and America, (cheers); and if as Lord Bacon said, in recommending the adoption of the name of Britain, in the reign of James I, a name has “much impression and enchantment in it,” I believe we have chosen the best one which was left to us, and one which we may hope, all our descendants, if not ourselves, will be proud to bear, to defend, and to illustrate. (Cheers.) Mr. Speaker, the Union is established, and we are here, or ought to be, all of us, as Unionists; and I quite agree with the honourable member for Cumberland (Dr. Tupper), that it would be much to be deplored, both here and at home, and beyond our limits, if the impression was allowed to go abroad, from this House especially, that our Act of Union was carried by means of intrigue, corruption and coercion. No such stain must be allowed to rest upon the fair repute of this great transaction; no such false version of the facts must be allowed to go uncontradicted into general and permanent circulation; and I stand here prepared to maintain the allegations in the Address, that not only as to its substance, but as to the mode of its preparation and passage into law this British America Act, is a glorious and most timely charter, for which we have all cause to be thankful. (Cheers.) As one of the least of its promoters, cognizant, I believe, of every step of its progress, from the first rude sketch scarce half designed at Charlottetown, in September, '64, to the finished piece of legislation, completed at Westminster, in '67, as we now have it here; I stand up to maintain, that all its provisions were honestly meant and fairly meant towards every Province; I stand here to maintain that three years discussion in this busy age was not an insuffi-