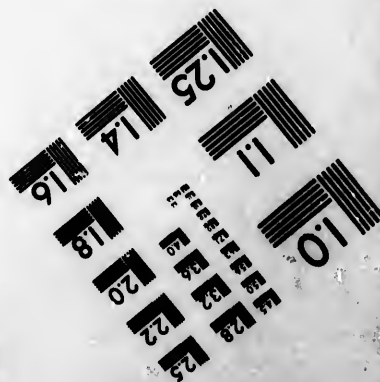
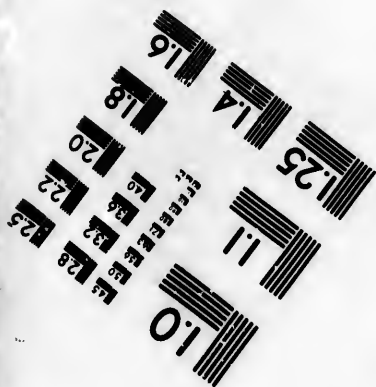
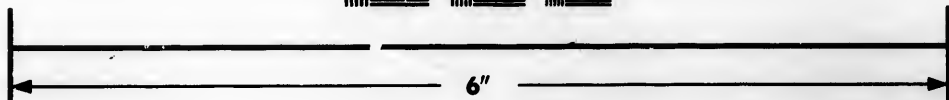
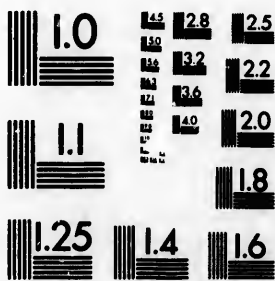


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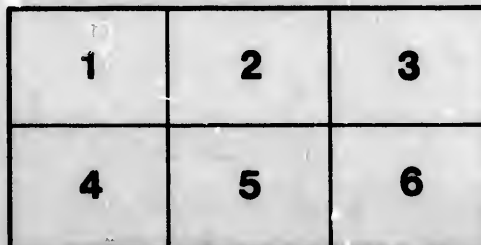
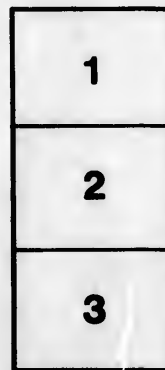
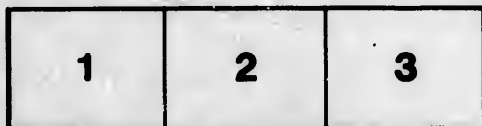
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BANQUET

IN HONOR OF THE

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

AT CORNWALL, C. W.

1ST MARCH 1866.

MONTREAL

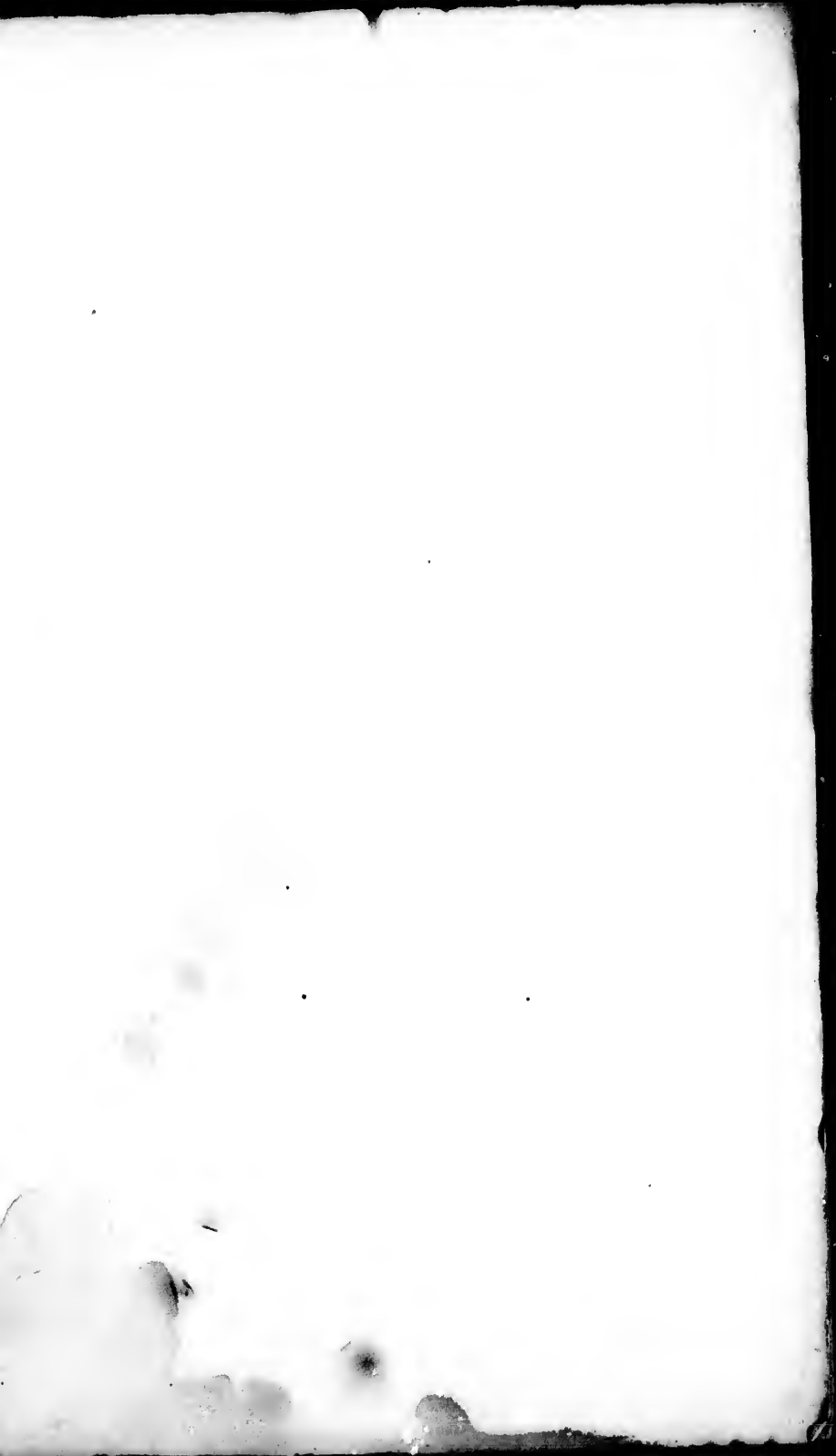
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1866











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MONTREAL

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# BANQUET

IN HONOR OF THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

AT CORNWALL, C. W.,

1ST MARCH, 1866.

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On the 1st of March, 1866, a banquet was given in the Town Hall, Cornwall, to Her Majesty's Canadian Ministers, by their friends in Cornwall and the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. Dr. ALLAN, Mayor of Cornwall, presided; the Vice-chairs being filled by the Warden, A. J. Cockburn, Esquire, Col. Vankoughnet, John R. Wood, George Ferris, Angus Bethune, Esquires, and Dr. Sherman, W. Maticeo, and N. J. McGillivray. Col. McLean and Captain Farlinger acted as croupiers.

The Ministers present were, the Hon. John A. Macdonald, the Hon. Mr. Cartier, the Hon. Mr. Galt, the Hon. Mr. Howland and the Hon. Mr. McGeer.

On the dais, besides the Ministers, were the Hon. Mr. Carling, London, Mr. Ross, M.P.P., Dundas, Mr. Ault, M.P.P., Stormont, Mr. Bell, M.P.P., Russell, Mr. McGiverin, M.P.P., Lincoln, Mr. Alexander Morris, M.P.P., S. Lanark, Mr. Burton and Mr. Ralph Jones, Port Hope, C. J. Brydges, Esq., and Mr. Spicer, G.T.R., Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Walter Macfarlan, Duncan Loughlin McDonald, Major Stevenson, Brown Chamberlin, J. McGrath, Esquires, Montreal, Sheriff McIntyre, Dr. Bergin, Andrew Hodge, Andrew Fulton, P. E. Adams, Robert Graig, James Bethune, John Bergin, J. F. Pringle, Col. McLean, Rev. Mr. Hughill, Robert Macfarlane, C. P. Adams, W. Atcheson, Duncan Fraser, Angus McDonell, Esqrs., Alexander Fraser, W. R. McDonell, and Angus McGillis, Cornwall, Archibald Fraser, John McGillis, John Macdonald, Esq., Angus S. McDonell, John A. Cameron, (Fairfield,) Walter Colquhoun and Rev. Messrs. Garret, Dobin, Fisher, Lamont, and James Croil, Esq., Stormont, Mr. Doran, Capt. Farlinger, Col. McDonell, (Inch,) and Rev. Edwin Loueka, Dundas, &c., &c.

The body of the Hall was filled with a splendid assemblage of the yeomanry of the United Counties. The galleries were filled with ladies.

The Town Hall, in which the dinner was given, was tastefully, appropriately, and beautifully decorated with evergreens, flags and mottoes. Too

much credit cannot be given to the ladies whose willing hands so rapidly and skilfully accomplished the task in the time allotted to them for the purpose. An excellent dinner (furnished by the Messrs. Carlisle, of the Terrapin, Montreal,) having been discussed, the Chairman rose and said:

Ladies and Gentlemen, the first toast which I have the honor to propose now on this festive occasion, is the same which, whenever subjects of our Gracious Sovereign meet on similar occasions, most appropriately takes precedence of all others, I shall therefore give you, without further preface, "Our Gracious Sovereign, Queen Victoria: may God bless her!" (Loud and enthusiastic cheers.)

The National Anthem was sung by Major Stevenson, the chorus being taken up by the whole company.

The Chairman, Dr. ALLAN, in proposing the second toast, said:

Ladies and Gentlemen, the next toast on our list is one to which I doubt not you will reply with enthusiasm fully equal to that with which you have just responded. It is only, ladies and gentlemen, a few years since we had the honor of welcoming to our shores our Sovereign's son, our future King, (loud cheers) and the feelings of loyalty and affection which greeted him at every point in our country, must indeed have convinced him that Canada was truly loyal to the British Crown. (Cheers.) You will therefore join with me in drinking health and happiness to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal family.

The speech was duly honored amidst great applause and cheers.

The CHAIRMAN, in introducing the next toast, said:

Ladies and Gentlemen, the next toast is one which I may be pardoned in saying I give with more than ordinary pleasure, being that of the Representative of our Sovereign in this portion of Her Majesty's dominions. [Cheers.] A nobleman who, by his truly straightforward, manly course, has endeared himself to all classes in our country. [Loud applause.] And, ladies and gentlemen, when I tell you I was present a few days since at his reception in Montreal, on his return there from the land of his birth, and when I saw and heard expressed the feelings of respect and admiration which were lavished on His Excellency by the representatives of the various national and other societies, without distinction of origin or creed,—when I heard the feeling and eloquent replies made by His Excellency to each of those addresses—I could not help feeling a national pride, as I think, perfectly excusable. I did feel proud that he was an *Irishman*, (loud cheers,) worthy of the name, (hear, hear,) and that I had the honor of being a native of that country from which such a truly noble man had sprung. [Applause.] I therefore give you with sincere pleasure, "His Excellency the Governor General," and may he long enjoy that confidence of his Sovereign, and the people over which he now rules, which at present he enjoys. [Loud cheers.]

After the enthusiasm which greeted His Excellency's health had subsided, the CHAIRMAN said:

Ladies and Gentlemen, at a time like the present, when our country is considered on the eve of most momentous events,—when "Our Canada," from being a happy and prosperous country as it is at present, may be, we know not how soon, (hear, hear,) the scene of bloodshed and rapine,—whom have we to depend on but those who never deserted their colors nor were found wanting when required, and who at present are ready, aye, ready and willing, to offer up their lives at the shrine of their country before a foreign foe, shall for one moment do dishonor to that flag which we all honor,—a flag which for a thousand years has braved the battle and the breeze. [Loud, enthusiastic cheers.] I therefore give you with pleasure the next toast on our list, "The bulwarks of our country, the Army, Navy and Volunteers of Great Britain, Ireland and the Colonies," feeling convinced that they will be found worthy scions of that stock who never quailed before a foe, and never, never shall be slaves. [Great applause.]

Captain BERGIN replied. He said, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen: In the absence of the distinguished officer who was invited to respond to this toast, but who has been prevented from being present by urgent professional duties, it falls to my lot to reply on behalf of the Army and Navy as well as for the Volunteers. I regret it should be so—and I am sure you will pardon me if I make my remarks somewhat brief. Simply to thank you, on behalf of the Army and Navy, will, I am sure, be accepted as sufficient, for its history is familiar to every true Briton, and is written in the blood of our Army and Navy, shed on many a field, beneath every clime, in every country on the face of the globe. [Cheers.] Every part of this continent has been baptised with their blood. [Cheers.] Even our old Eastern District furnishes a field which sheds glory upon them—Chrysler's Farm, not more than twenty miles from where I now stand—and I am proud to say that the little band of Regulars, who so gallantly defeated the large host of Americans on that occasion, were nobly seconded by our Canadian Militia. [Loud cheers.] This brings me to the second part of the toast, the Volunteers, and speaking here, where, I may say with, I trust, pardonable pride, we furnish a larger number of Volunteers, in proportion to our population, than any other city or town in the Province, [cheers,] it may not be out of place to call attention to the much greater difficulties we labour under in country parts in sustaining the Volunteer force than in large cities. We have no large class of mercantile or law clerks—no large body of mechanics—no thousands or hundreds of railway employes—no ship labourers—no body of young men with regular or fixed employment to draw upon for substitutes in the case of vacancies in the ranks. Our young men, as a general rule, owing to the want of permanent, remunerative labor, are not by any means a fixed population, and therefore not so available for the Volunteer force as the city populations. This point can be well illustrated in my own company. When, four years since, at the time of the Trent difficulty, it was inspected by Lt.-Col. Wily,

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVEN men had enrolled their names, [cheers] now only thirty-seven remain, divided among the three companies; the remainder, none of them I am happy to say having since died, are scattered over the continent. Of the officers then gazetted, I alone remain. One of them is seeking his fortune in the colony of Victoria, and the other in a Western district of this Province. With such difficulties to be encountered, we require, and I am proud to say we obtain, much encouragement from those whose occupations and age prevent their joining us actively; and I may be permitted to say, that he who, through party or personal motives, throws obstacles of any kind in the way—who appeals to the political, to the religious or to the mercenary feelings of the class from which alone service Volunteers can be drawn, is no true lover of his country. [Cheers] That we have a Volunteer force in Cornwall, and that it is efficient, we are indebted to the present Minister of Militia and Attorney General for Upper Canada; and I take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging the obligation which we are under to him. In the case of the company which I have now the honor to command, we are under strong personal obligations to him. Formed at the time of the Trent difficulty, far from being seconded by those whose duty it was, but who through petty, personal motives, which I shall not characterize here, threw every possible difficulty in our path and endeavored to prevent our recognition, we laid our case before Mr. Macdonald, the then first Minister of Militia, who in the most handsome manner responded to our wishes, and gazetted us at once. I ought not to omit that the compliment was the greater because, in the first place, the Militia Bill, being then in course of preparation, on which his Government was afterwards defeated, a General Order had been issued, not to accept any new companies, until it had been voted upon by the House, and this Order had to be set aside before we could be accepted. Mr. Macdonald, I understand, had still another reason for recognizing us. At that time the Irish and Catholic element of the population had not been represented in the force, and he was desirous of recognizing what he knew to be the fact, that they were as devoted in their loyalty as any other class of Her Majesty's subjects in this Province. [Cheers.] What the Volunteers are in Cornwall they are in every part of the country. At the first intimation of the Trent difficulty the whole Province sprang to arms, each vying with his neighbour to avenge, should need be, any insult to the Mother Country. The good spirit evinced then, has still more lately been evinced during the threatened Fenian raids, and the Cornwall Volunteers have not been behind their brother Volunteers in the other parts of the Province. We can point with pride to the alacrity with which they turned out at the first intimation of danger, and the promptitude with which they erected the defensive works which the military authorities deemed necessary, and which they threw up at points selected by an officer of Her Majesty's service sent here for that purpose. [Cheers.] Volunteers are not, in their capacity as Volunteers, politicians. But I may say for the Volunteers of Cornwall, that they all heartily approve the policy of Confederation; looking upon it as the only means of avoiding a hated annexation to the neighbouring Union. We desire to live upon good terms with our American neighbors, but we do not desire any more

intimate relation. We all love Great Britain. Her glory is our glory. We love her government and her institutions, and we will have no other. We are all, English, Irish, Scotch and Canadian, Catholic and Protestant, united as one man upon this point. We live and have lived under the old meteor flag and we are resolved to die under it. [Loud cheers.]

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the next toast, in substance as follows :

We now come, ladies and gentlemen, to *the* toast of the evening, and I hesitate not in saying that I feel perfectly inadequate to the task of doing it that justice which might naturally be expected from a person occupying the proud and responsible position of Chairman of such a large, respectable and influential meeting as has met here to-night to do honor to those gentlemen in whose hands are happily now the destinies of our country. [Cheers.] And, ladies and gentlemen, your presence here this evening, the enthusiasm which pervades the whole meeting, notwithstanding the subjection which I see you plainly try to keep your feelings under, is a convincing proof to me (and I feel assured must be to our guests,) that you consider those destinies in their hands *safe*, (cheers,) and that a second opinion exists not here but that "the right men are in the right place." [Loud applause.] But I must bear in mind, ladies and gentlemen, that you came not here this evening to hear me endeavor to make a speech; you came here to hear and see those gentlemen (our guests) whom we have never had the honor of welcoming to our town before,—gentlemen whose names are familiar to all of us as "household words," (cheers,) though many in this large meeting had never the pleasure of seeing or hearing them speak. I shall, therefore, without further remarks, give you the toast of the evening, viz., "Our Guests, Her Majesty's Canadian Ministers," and shall conclude by saying, as the motto before us on the wall of our room says, "The old Eastern District greets Canada's Rulers with a Caed Mille Failthe." [Loud and enthusiastic cheers which lasted several minutes.]

Hon. J. A. MACDONALD, whose rising was the signal for round after round of the most enthusiastic cheering, said, when quiet was restored:—Mr. Mayor, Mr. Warden, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I would indeed be insensible if I were not in the highest degree impressed and gratified by this great compliment which you have paid to the Government of which I have the honor to be a member. The enthusiastic manner in which you have received us all is a compliment never to be forgotten, which we cannot forget, and which no man with a heart in his bosom could ever forget. I had hoped that the respected head of the Government, Sir Narcisse Belleau, would have addressed you in reply to this toast instead of myself. Allow me to offer you, on his behalf, his most sincere regret. Illness is the sole cause of his not being here with us to respond to your kind, your magnificent demonstration of to-night. [Cheers.] This is not an ordinary gathering, not a mere festive occasion; we are not met here for the mere purpose of social enjoyment, though I must say that you have lavished upon us, with the most liberal hand, all the means

of social enjoyment and festivity; but we have come here to receive, as we have received at your hands, the evidence of your opinion that, at all events, if we are not the greatest Ministers in the world, we are men sincerely desirous of performing our duty; and we have come here feeling that you, who have watched our course, approve of our principles and think well of the manner in which those principles have been carried out in action. [Cheers.] This toast and this compliment are gratifying to us on many grounds. The first ground is this, that it comes from the old Eastern District—the old and loyal Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry—counties that had an incorporated existence, that had a militia system, a magistracy and all the organizations of civilized life, at a time when the greater portion of Western Canada, that now blossoms like the rose, was hardly more than a wilderness. [Cheers.] I see around me some of the hardy veterans who exposed themselves in our defence in the last war—men who fought on many hotly contested fields, and freely shed their blood for their king and country; and I know also that I am addressing many who are descendants of men like them—there are too few of them left to us, though some of them I see, who are still vigorous enough to make their voices heard from end to end of this room—that these descendants, sons of loyal sires, are just as ready to fight for their country as their fathers were in 1812. [Loud cheers.] No man who knows anything of the history of Canada—no man who knows anything of the great battles in which the Militia, with but scant aid from the small force of Regulars in the Province, and against enormous odds, met the foe in the cause of their young country—can forget the deeds of the gallant “Glengarrys,” and I can speak of them with some feeling of pride, because my ancestors belonged to the Glengarrys of old Scotland. [Cheers.] Another ground upon which this compliment must be practically gratifying to my colleagues is this, that this is not a mere political party demonstration. (Hear, hear.) It does not spring from one section of the country, nor from any one phase of political party; it is not a Conservative nor yet a Reform demonstration, but you have come forward in the kindest, most marked and most enthusiastic manner, without reference to party opinion, to support and approve of the conduct of the Administration formed in 1864—formed by men who, forgetting all old causes of political quarrel, joined together in the cause of our country. (Cheers.) You must all know well the history of the formation of the Coalition Government in 1864. In the first place, in addition to the strong and close struggle of party which rendered Canadian Government almost impossible—because my friend, Mr. Cartier, and myself, not being strong enough, had been defeated and obliged to retire; then Mr. John Sandfield Macdonald, not being strong enough, had also been defeated, and retired; and on the return of Mr. Cartier and myself under the leadership of the late Sir Etienne Taché, we were again defeated, all these facts showing the weakness of the various Governments that were formed in the short period of two years;—I say that in addition to that struggle, which was merely a social difficulty, and which rendered a strong Government impossible—and you all know that the first element of success and prosperity, in any country, is to have a strong Government—we had a far higher aim in view in forming that Coalition—an



aim that had occupied the attention of statesmen in this country for years and years, and an aim that, once secured, would give us, instead of five or six scattered and feeble Colonies—insufficient in themselves, unable to fight their own battles because of their divisions, and a source of weakness not only to themselves but to the Mother Country,—one grand British North American Union which, instead of being a cause of embarrassment to the Sovereign and of weakness to the Imperial Government, would by a union give all strength, enable us to stand effectively as one man to the old flag, and that would even become a source of strength to the Home Government. (Loud cheers.) No party has the right to claim the exclusive merit of originating this project, which has occupied the attention of public men ever since the formation of these colonies into responsible self-governing communities. It was strongly pressed in the Report of the Imperial Commissioner to Canada, Lord Durham; and since then it has been seen by every far-seeing, patriotic man, that, sooner or later, the only way to prevent these colonies being snatched or stolen, filched or coaxed away, one by one, from their allegiance to the British Crown, was by joining them together into one great nation, in alliance with Great Britain and under the same constitution. (Loud cheers.) The subject was brought prominently under notice in 1858, by the Government which was headed by my friend Mr. Cartier, and in which I was glad to stand by him as second. I am always glad to stand by him as second or third, or in any position from that of cabin-boy up to lieutenant; in any capacity, however humble, I am always ready to serve with him; and in that Government he was captain and I was first lieutenant. Three members of the Administration were in England in that year, Mr. Cartier, Mr. Galt, Mr. Ross, who, although not now a member of the Government, is as strong and enthusiastic as ever in support of his old colleagues. They pressed the subject strongly upon the Imperial Government, in a paper which is admitted by all who have read it to be one of the ablest State Papers ever written, and urged the doing away with the anarchical, the disjointed, unpleasant and feeble condition of these Provinces by having a junction of the whole under Her Majesty as one Confederation of the Colonies of British North America. The subject was thus cast upon the waters, and it produced fruit in many days, because not many months ago Mr. Brown made a motion in Parliament, based upon a quotation from that same State Paper, moving that a Committee should be appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the state of the Province with the view of obtaining a remedy for the state of things then in existence. That motion, which I must say was most properly and ably moved by Mr. Brown, and carried through with that energy and zeal which characterize that gentleman, resulted in a Committee being appointed, which he fairly chose without distinction to party, without reference to whether its members were Conservative or Tory, Reformers or Clear Grits, *Rouge* or *Bleu*. (Laughter and cheers.) He felt, as every patriotic man must feel, and as I have no doubt you all feel, that the country could not go on without a Government; that we ought, for the sake of the country, to cast aside all our old hostilities, our little party feelings, and forgetting our political differences and party bickerings, meet together on the common ground and platform of our country's

good. (Cheers.) Well, that Committee met, and resolved, for the better attainment of their object, to sit in secret session, and so many of us had allowed our temper to get the better of our discretion in some old party quarrels—and I am sorry to say that I was one of them—that we found when we met that we could not speak to each other; we could nevertheless speak at each other, if we could not speak to each other, through the chairman. Well, we made friends on the spot,—(cheers)—and all agreed that the state of things that had existed could not go on, but that some system must be evolved which would alter that state of things, and that Canada must have a Government once more. (Cheers.) And when we put our heads together, and treated the subject as honest men should, we found that after all we did not differ so much from each other as we had believed; and the deliberations of the Committee germinated in the present state of things, in which we have every expectation of seeing the object of our hopes and prayers and wishes carried out, ere many days. (Loud cheers.) But, Sir, it would be a mistake to suppose that we entered into this Coalition merely for the purpose of getting rid of our party differences in Canada—or trying to bring the other Provinces into a union with us, in order that we might free ourselves from the effect of close party and personal struggles. We had other and higher objects to serve, the principal one of which has been alluded to in some of the remarks you made to this meeting; and that was to provide against the defenceless state of these Colonies in case hostilities should unfortunately arise between the Mother Country and the neighboring States of America. Thank God, the state of feeling which existed between the two countries at the time of the Trent affair, has disappeared on our side; I believe it has also long disappeared on the part of the American Government, and that it will soon disappear among the American People. But at that time, when we thought ourselves to be on the brink of a war with the neighboring country, and when England, prompt as ever, sent out troops and forces for our defence, as she always does when her Colonies are threatened with attack from any quarter, we could not help feeling and knowing that instead of being a source of strength to her in the trying times that were anticipated, we in these Colonies were a source of weakness—that instead of being one great political organization, with one militia system for the defence of the whole, and one commander-in-chief, who could utilize the forces under his control, send them at the shortest notice to any place at the requirement of duty, and by this means be able to defend every spot of British North America, we had a different and conflicting system in each Province, and in some, indeed, we had no system at all, and no provision whatever for defence. Instead of being a compact whole, we would have had men, in some of the Colonies, interfering with the arrangements and dispositions of the proper military officers, and of the Imperial commanders sent out for our protection, with jarring and diversity of opinion in our councils, with separate and distinct communities to provide the uncertain means of defensive warfare, and with our resources wasted and frittered away from want of combined action—so that, instead of aiding, we would have been actually a source of weakness to the Imperial troops, and instead of fighting battles

successfully, we would have fought at great disadvantage, because of our inability to fight unitedly. (Cheers.) This great truth pressed itself upon all statesmen, upon every person who was in Parliament as a representative of the people, and I believe upon the whole people themselves. [Hear, hear] When, therefore, the defeat of the Government of which the late Sir Etienne Taché was the head, took place in 1864, we remembered the conferences that had taken place in the Committee appointed on Mr. Brown's motion, and the previous action of this Committee, in which we had come to the conclusion that for the safety of our common country we should unite in something like common action to make one great nation, instead of living as we are now, with five or six small and feeble communities, each independent of the other, and each a cause of weakness to the others. Now, under these circumstances, I at once appealed, as you may all remember, to a gentleman who for years had been in a position of bitter political hostility to myself, the Hon. George Brown; and I say it now, although he is no longer a member of the Government, that in the most manly and honorable spirit he responded to that appeal, and we thereupon formed the Coalition Government for the purpose of inviting all the Colonies into one great Confederation [Loud cheers.] Mr. Brown has since seen fit to leave the Government, and I have no hesitation in saying that his colleagues deeply regret that he felt it his duty to retire from the Ministry; but I am happy to say that he retired because of no personal quarrel with any of us. [Cheers.] But he retired from his colleagues, simply from a difference of opinion as to the mode of dealing with a question so well known as the Reciprocity Treaty. [Hear, hear.] I regret, I am sure all my colleagues regret, that he did so; for it is a great responsibility for a Minister to resign his office, and in many respects a step of greater responsibility to retire from than to accept a position in the Government of a country; for a man in private life, who is offered office, may for private or any other reason refuse it without incurring any great responsibility by his refusal, but having once accepted, and put his hand to the plough, he is bound by every consideration of duty to his country not to retire from the position, without good and substantial reasons; and a grave responsibility rests upon his shoulders when he breaks off the relations he has voluntarily assumed. However, every man must be the judge of that responsibility for himself. [Hear, hear.] Of course, from the fact that my colleagues and myself remained in the Government and that he retired, it may be inferred that we think Mr. Brown was wrong and we were right. He thought otherwise, and chose to assume the responsibility of retiring. He declined to assume the responsibility of dealing with that question in the manner which the rest of his colleagues thought right and proper; and if he really and honestly believed that we were wrong, and that he was correct in his view of it—if he felt that we were so erroneous that he could not assume the responsibility of the course we proposed to pursue—the only thing that remained for him to do as a man of honor was to retire; because, I need hardly tell you that, no matter what a man's private opinion may be upon any question of principle or policy to be dealt with, if he consents to the course adopted by his colleagues, he becomes equally responsible with them

for their conduct. From my point of view I think Mr. Brown was in error in retiring from the Government; he, on the contrary, thinks he was right. I think that under the circumstances he might well have yielded his opinion to that of ten of his colleagues who were unanimous; he, on the other hand, thought that he could not honestly do so. (Hear, hear.) When he entered the Government, he entered it, I believe, with a sincere and earnest desire to carry out the Confederation of the Provinces, and I believe that Mr. Brown, although out of the Government, will continue to support this or any other Government that will honestly and straightforwardly press the scheme of Confederation to a successful completion. (Cheers.) I think it but due to my ex-colleague, and when I speak in the singular number, I speak also the sentiments of my colleagues, that I should make this statement to you in this public manner. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, I believe that Confederation is to be carried. (Loud cheers.) I believe that ere many weeks, and perhaps ere many days, you will see that the Lower Provinces, which at first repudiated the conduct of their delegates to the Quebec Conference, will, on calm and cool reflection upon the whole subject, and, above all, with a desire loyally to respond to the strongly expressed wishes of Her Majesty and Her Majesty's Government in England, give up their local prejudices and feelings, and eventually, ere long, join with Canada in forming one great Confederation. (Loud and prolonged cheers.) I had forgotten, Sir, in the proper sequence of my narration, to state that immediately after we had come to the conclusion respecting the Confederation of the Provinces, a Session of Parliament was held in Canada, and you may remember that by overwhelming majorities in both Houses, the proposed scheme of Confederation was carried. An Address was adopted and sent home to be laid at the foot of the Throne, asking Her Majesty to be pleased to cause a Bill to be laid before the Imperial Parliament, for the purpose of carrying into effect the scheme of Confederation adopted by the Quebec Conference, and approved by the Canadian Legislature. Her Most Gracious Majesty responded to that Address, and so far as she can be supposed individually to have an opinion on political questions, was highly pleased with the scheme of Union; and the Sovereign, with her Parliament and People, all responded heartily to the call that was made from Canada. (Loud cheers.) Aft. that you may remember that the Lower Provinces did not respond, as we had reason to hope and expect they would have done; and then again we found that Canada was thrown upon her own resources. When, then, being unable to foresee whether the Lower Provinces would persist in their opposition to Confederation, or give an adhesion to it; and when we had to consider what would be the position of Canada in the unfortunate contingency of standing alone in favor of the scheme, a deputation of four of the Ministers of Canada went home to England for the purpose of consulting and deliberating with the Imperial authorities as to what was best to be done in the emergency. Now, although the hour is late, and I fear to detain you,—(cries of "no, no.")—I cannot deny myself the pleasure of stating to you very shortly the manner in which Canada, through this delegation of her Ministers, was treated in England. (Cheers.) We were almost unknown in the Mother Country; we

might have some few individual friends in the Houses of Parliament, who took a particular interest in our welfare, but as a whole the Canadian Ministry and the Canadian People had no hold upon the public mind of England, or influence in the Imperial Government or Parliament. But from the moment we went home as a deputation from the Canadian people, and, going to the foot of the Throne to humbly address Her Majesty, said:—"We are here as Canadians, anxious to form a great nation—not a separate nation from the British Empire, but connected with it and subject to Your Majesty's authority; not to cut off the link that binds us to the Mother Country, but to perpetuate in those Provinces, British institutions and British laws—to raise up under Your Majesty's benignant sway, a new nation as an auxiliary to the Empire and a defence to the Mother Country, as well as to the mere dependencies of the British Empire"—from the moment we presented ourselves to the British Parliament with the credentials of the people of Canada, shewing that we went there for that purpose, we saw a great change. We were treated there, not as mere delegates going home from some small dependency, as previous messengers from the colonies had been treated, but we were placed in a position as if we were an embassy from some great nation; and we, the four Ministers of a single colony, were met, day by day, and for weeks and weeks, by four of the chief heads of the great departments of the Government of England. (Loud cheers.) We had the head of the Army in the Secretary for War, Earl de Grey; the head of the Navy in the Duke of Somerset; the head of the Financial Department and leader of the House of Commons (since the death of Lord Palmerston) in Mr. Gladstone; and the Secretary for the Colonies in Mr. Cardwell. These were the gentlemen with whom we had to deal, and they met us and discussed these great questions on which I am now addressing you on terms of perfect equality. (Loud cheers.) And they received us in this spirit also because we went home to bring them tidings that the Canadian people were willing—nay, more than willing, were anxious—to sacrifice anything for the purpose of extending and enlarging their powers, and of developing their strength, so as to cease to be a weakness to England, and to become a strength and a support to her. (Loud Cheers.) And, Mr. Chairman, we believe that we conveyed to the Government and People of England the sentiments of the People of Canada, as I am sure we conveyed the sentiments of the People of the old Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, when we told Her Majesty, through her Ministers, that Canada was ready to spend her last man and her last shilling in the defence of the British Constitution and the British Crown. (Great cheering.) We made the offer without stint, without reservation, and met a response in the same generous, open and unlimited manner. We were told that in case it was necessary the whole power of the mighty empire with which we are connected would be exercised in our defence, and that by land and by sea, by soldier and by sailor, by salt water and by fresh, on the ocean and on the lakes, England would, if necessary, expend the whole of her mighty resources, military and naval, in the defence of Canada and the British Provinces. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) Such, gentlemen, were the results of our joining together under British laws and British institutions,

and it is a lesson to be remembered by future statesmen in Canada, after we disappear from the scene. Such were the results of the statesmen of the day laying aside their party quarrels, their old political hostilities and personal enmities, and joining together in one Government for the sake of the common good. (Loud cheers.) It resulted in the elevation of Canada from a position in which she was considered an encumbrance by the people of England, to a position in which she is regarded as a great and valuable accession to the power of empire; and we found, moreover, during this mission, that the People of England—no matter what a small school of able but fanatical men may say, those men who think that England would be better off without any of her Colonies, and that they ought to be cut off and she allowed to stand alone in the ocean, a small island of manufacturers—did not wish to cast us off, but that their opinion and that of the Government of England was, that she should never, either by compulsion or persecution, yield up one inch of her vast colonial territory; and that she was just as alive to the value of having Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen in her Colonies across the sea, as to the value of having Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen in the British Isles. (Loud cheers.) Of course we were told that she would not force us to remain in connexion with the empire; but that if we, or any other colony, whether in America, Australia, or elsewhere, desired to sever that connexion—that if we did so, not in a tumultuous and hasty, ill-considered manner, but after grave deliberation, and with the acknowledged assent of a majority of the people, properly expressed through their parliamentary representatives—if after calmly and coolly considering the whole subject, they should say to the British people that they thought it to their interest and advantage that the alliance should be severed, England would say, without one single expression of harshness, without one feeling of asperity,—“Go in peace, if you think you can walk alone—good bye, and God bless you.” But on the other hand I say that, while England would not compel, by any force, threat, or indirect means, a Colony to separate itself from the Mother Country if it chose to continue the connexion, she would also, so long as a Colony desired to remain a portion of the British Empire, as we do, and as I hope we always will do, (loud cheers,) and so long as it gave proof of this desire by act and word, use the whole power and strength of the Empire, military, naval and pecuniary, to fight for the Colonies that still wished to preserve the connexion with her. (Loud cheers.) Now, gentlemen, as to the merits of the Confederation scheme adopted by the Quebec Conference, I shall say a few words, even at the hazard of wearying you. (Cries of “no, no.”) I do not say that any one of the delegates to the Conference which originated that scheme thought it a perfect one. It was of necessity a matter of compromise, for each Colony has its own prejudices and local difficulties, and the delegates had to discuss, not only what was the best system or plan of union according to the opinion of any one of us, but what was the best system to be carried out to a practical issue in reference to the future. No one can look into the future and predict what the result will be, but I believe the Conference at Quebec sketched out a system which would give us a strong and effective Government, and if, as the

progress of experience probably will show, there are some amendments required, they can be introduced in a legal and constitutional manner, as all amendments are under the law and system of England. I call special attention to the fact that the first Resolution passed in the Conference was—that the British North American Provinces should be united in one great Confederation, under Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. (Loud cheers.) That Resolution was carried without a dissentient voice. (Renewed applause.) We all rose in conference and declared if these colonies were to be made one nation, it was to be under the gracious sway of Queen Victoria, her heirs and successors. (Cheers.) This was not a mere matter of lip-loyalty, it came from the heart in the first instance, and from the head in the next. (Applause.) It has been of a said that the Government of England is a republic disguised in monarchical form, and that England is a republic with the Queen as a mere person of ceremonial position. A greater mistake could not be made. England stands in a peculiarly happy position with reference to her Sovereign. (Hear, hear.) If England were to become a republic, which God forbid, (loud cheers,) the consequence would be that the head of the Government must be elected or chosen by one party and opposed by another, just as in a political election for a county, town or corporation, a candidate is elected by a majority, and sometimes by but a majority of one or two. Just as the successful candidate must be the exponent of the principles and passions and prejudices of that majority, so must the head of a democracy, elected by a majority, be, to a certain extent, the exponent of the principles, passions and prejudices of the majority that elected him, and occupy a position opposed to those who voted against him at the hustings or elsewhere. (Hear, hear.) But, in England, how different it is. Her Majesty moves far above the region of party politics. She knows no party: she only knows the whole nation are her subjects. She belongs neither to the Conservative, Whig, Radical nor any other party, but acts equitably and rules with equal beneficence over all. She submits to the will of the people, expressed through her ministers, as a Constitutional Sovereign always should. But when, in the course of events, one ministry goes out and another must come in, Her Majesty selects the best men of the opposite party, and leaves it to them to form an Administration. Every man in England knows the Queen will have no narrow prejudice, but that she governs and holds an even and steady course, guiding, checking, restraining, and regulating, as regards the different parties. (Cheers.) That is one great advantage which exists, and, I think, an overwhelming advantage and argument in favor of our connexion with Great Britain. (Loud applause.) And so I might go through many of the leading features of the Confederation scheme, but you have already studied it for yourselves. I believe you have now the basis—because, after all, it is merely the basis or skeleton, or general principle—out of which should be evolved and worked up a system of government for British North America. (Cheers.) I think the principles agreed upon at the Conference, and voted upon by the Legislature of Canada and the Imperial Parliament, as embodied in the Confederation scheme, contain a system by which we shall have, under the governing

power of Her Majesty—although not exercised personally, but through her representative, whether one of her sons or one of the nobles of the land—an assurance and guarantee that we shall be governed by a person belonging to no party, and holding an even balance between all parties, and restraining and controlling them in case of their running to riot or any extreme. (Cheers.) I believe we have also worked out a system by which we shall have a strong central government,—a system under which there can be no question about individual rights of the minor provinces or states, no question, in fact, of provincial or state rights can possibly arise. We shall have a strong central government, as I said before, and a strong parliament, able to consider all questions that affect the country, and guide its progress in the paths of prosperity and greatness. At the same time we have provided for local institutions and governments. In consequence of the enormous extent of the contemplated Confederacy, which, I hope, will include, ere long, the vast extent of territory stretching from the foot of the Rocky Mountains to the Ocean, we have considered it necessary to provide local legislatures and governments to watch over the local interests of the different sections or colonies. In Britain, which is a small country, one Parliament is enough, and sufficiently capable of looking after all the interests of the different sections or districts from Land's End to John O'Grout's, and, in the sister isle, attending to all the matters affecting the land from Cape Clear to Ireland's Eye. (Hear, hear.) But how could the people of the Saskatchewan Valley, for instance, know what was the interest of the people of Newfoundland, and *vice versa*? Therefore, while providing a strong central government and general parliament to watch over the interests of all parties from the St. Lawrence to the country extending far towards the North Pole, we shall have local interests of the different sections into which British North America is to be divided cared for and protected by local legislatures.

A Voice—"Three cheers for John A." (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

Hon. Mr. Macdonald continued: Now, as I have stated to you, I hope and believe that the great scheme, so happily commenced, so speedily hurried to a stage of progress beyond our expectation, for, after all, it is little more than a year since we commenced negotiations with the Lower Provinces—will soon be brought to a successful completion or realization; and should it be so you will have the happiness of knowing you belong to a nation that from its size will exceed most nations of the earth, and which will from its natural resources, in the lifetime of some of those living, assume the position of one of the greatest countries in the world. (Cheers.) I had intended, perhaps, to allude to other questions of public policy, but, happily, I am relieved from inflicting further remarks upon you, for I have some of my colleagues here who are going to express their views on some of the subjects I have not alluded to. There is one subject, however, in which I am particularly interested, and that is the Militia system of Canada. (Cheers.) The Militia Law now prevailing was passed during the government of my immediate predecessor, my respected friend, the Honorable J. S. Macdonald. (Hear, hear.) So I am not responsible for the measure; I am neither to praise nor blame for it; but it contains some features for which he has a right to claim credit, and



for which I would be unworthy and ungrateful if I did not give him credit—and those are in connexion with the establishment of Military Schools for the education of our militia officers. (Cheers.) That feature of the militia bill, which is one of the most happy of the whole, has entailed comparatively little expense. You can all look back at the history of the United States, and the late civil war now happily ended. Remember how, during the first two years of the war, both sides, especially the North, suffered for want of educated officers. They could get men in abundance, from their great wealth and resources, and by virtue of the general patriotism; but yet they could not procure competent officers till after hard experience and hard fighting and the loss of many battles, entailing the expenditure of much blood and treasure—they could only get officers after they had been trained in the hard school of actual service. Canada, however, taking advantage of this experience, through the instrumentality of the Administration that preceded ours, established two Military Schools—one for Upper and another for Lower Canada—for the education of officers for the militia. The results have most happily shown themselves already. All that I or this Government can claim is, that we approve of that system, introduced, as I have stated, and have maintained it vigorously, and have increased the number of the schools; but the bill was not our measure, but that of those opposed to us. We saw the value of the system, maintained and extended it, and from two schools we raised the number to five. The result is that already we have 2,000 officers able and ready to command the militia if ever they should be called out on any sudden emergency. We have, besides, been able to retain the services—and I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my gratification to find it so—of an officer recommended to us by the best military authorities in England, as one of the first theoretical soldiers in England—I mean the Adjutant-General of Militia, Colonel McDougall. (Cheers.) That officer's books on the art of war and the management of troops, and on everything relating to strategy and the conduct of military operations, are quoted and used in the schools of Great Britain as standard works on those matters. (Cheers.) I believe that if it should happen that any invasion or incursion—I am not going to talk to you about Fenian raids or enterprises—were made upon us—no matter from what quarter,—under the present militia system, and under the able management of Colonel McDougall, the militia would show—as he had several times reported of them—that they were worthy to fight beside Her Majesty's chosen and best trained soldiers. (Loud cheers.) Colonel McDougall states that when he came here he was prejudiced against the Volunteer system, but that he has since altogether changed his opinion. He finds here a body of militia, not a mere body of feather-bed soldiers, but men able, ready and willing, from their training, aptitude and military spirit, to fight beside the red or green coats of Her Majesty in the field. (Renewed applause.) I will now make way for my colleagues, and allow you to proceed with the other toasts of the evening. Again let me return thanks to you, not only on my own behalf—and I feel the honor specially grateful to myself—but on behalf of the Administration and all its friends in this part of Canada, for the highly distinguished honor you have paid us this day. (Applause.) It will

to remembered long after this day, and will have its effect long, long a year this day. Years and years ago I promised some of my friends who sit around me now to receive an invitation of this kind; but public and private engagements rendered it impossible for me to do so until the present day. But, as soon as we could, from the facilities offered us by our contiguity to Cornwall, at the new Seat of Government, we embraced the first opportunity after your asking us, of accepting your hospitality. (Cheers.) And much as we knew of the hospitality, kindness and loyalty and warlikeheartedness of the people of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, your demonstration to-night, in friendliness and enthusiastic warmth of reception, and the manner in which you have listened to my long and rambling speech, shows me that much as we had expected from you, our anticipations have been far exceeded. I shall have great pleasure in conveying to my absent colleagues information of the manner in which you have received us this night. They will hear of it with pride and pleasure; and now, before sitting down, let me thank you once more for all you have done for us. (The hon. gentleman sat down amid enthusiastic cheers again and again repeated.)

Hon. Mr. CARTIER also responded, and after offering thanks for their reception of him and his colleagues, and some humorous remarks, he proceeded to say—

As a Lower Canadian politician, I know there are a great number of prejudices against me in Upper Canada. (No, no.) It may be that those prejudices are now dying out. (Yes.) But I could not expect, by the manner in which sometimes, and for a series of years, my conduct has been commented upon, to find it otherwise; and I don't find fault with the inhabitants of Upper Canada that they had a certain amount of prejudice against me. But, Mr. Mayor, I have some hope in myself. I like to meet those who are prejudiced against me, to make their acquaintance; and it has been my happy lot to have met in my political career many of those opposed to me, and to have done away with all their prejudices. I hope, then, that if there are any opposed to me in the eastern counties, after this evening, after they have heard me for a few minutes, they will form a better opinion of me. (Hear, hear.) I must say this, too, as a Lower Canadian politician, it has been printed and published that I have forced on Upper Canada a certain system of legislation dictated by Lower Canadian ideas. I have never done such a thing. I have been a colleague in the same government with my friend the Attorney General for Upper Canada for nearly ten years, and he will bear witness with me that on no occasion have I tried or persuaded my friends in Lower Canada, either in the Ministry or in the House of Assembly, to try to impose Lower Canadian legislation on the people of Upper Canada. There were difficulties between Upper and Lower Canada, and they had to be met; and we have thought, as it has been remarked by my friend the Attorney General for Upper Canada, that the best settlement for these difficulties was to form ourselves into a great nation by adopting confederation.

(Hear, hear.) We have drowned, by seeking confederation, all the little difficulties before existing between Upper and Lower Canada. We feel that though at one time the union of the Canadas was distasteful to the people of Lower Canada, and, to a certain extent, to the people of Upper Canada, it has worked happily for the good and for the benefit of both Upper and Lower Canada; and that union has worked so well, so beneficially for the interests of both, that it has given us a taste for a greater union, (hear,) and that greater union we must carry out. (Loud applause.) Now, gentlemen, is it to be supposed for one moment that, when we see our neighbors surrounded with all kinds of difficulties, their political parties distracted by men representing what is called Northern interest, Southern interest, Eastern interest, and Western interest—when their geographical extent is dividing them into four different parties, is it a time for us to knock at the door of such a government and ask to be allowed to join them? (No, no.) Understanding our position, we know that we can form a confederation amongst ourselves, under the sovereignty of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, under the monarchical system. (Hear, hear.) The American confederation was started under the democratic system, and ours will present this happy contrast—it will be formed under the monarchical system. I will ask you to listen to me for a few minutes longer. With regard to confederation, there is the certainty that there will be the same loyal spirit—the same fervid love for British institutions all over the British North American Confederacy. There will be no fear that afterwards that confederacy will be torn to pieces. The prejudice which existed at one time when the scheme was laid before the Canadian public was that the different races, the different religions, the different provinces, would not be fairly dealt with. Well, now, Mr. Mayor, you know well what amount of difficulty our union was attended with. Every one knows the difficulties which were connected with the union of England and Scotland—yet that union has existed for a number of years. Is there a Scotchman in Scotland who would desire to repeal that union? (No, no.) It would be the same with regard to the North American Provinces. When once consummated, every creed, every province, every interest, will find how conducive it is to the benefit of all, and there will not be a single voice raised against it. I do not intend to speak at any length to-night. I know that my friends the Minister of Finance and the Postmaster General, who have lately come from Washington, will address you on matters connected with the commercial prosperity of this Province; and as the political grounds have been gone over so ably by my colleague the Attorney General for Upper Canada, it will not do for me to impose myself on you for any great length; but I will tell you this, gentlemen, that with regard to Lower Canadians, the French Canadians in particular have no fonder desire than to live—it matters not with or without confederation—under the sovereignty of England, to be connected with England; and if in Lower Canada they are so strong for confederation, it is for this principal reason, that they see in it a guarantee for all time to come of the connection of the British North American Provinces with England. I do not reiterate to you the facts which have been offered on behalf of the Government by my able colleague

Mr. Macdonald; but allow me to thank you again for the manner in which you have received me, and for this demonstration, of which I will speak every time I have an opportunity to my countrymen in Lower Canada, and I will tell them that if prejudices might have existed against them at the outset in the eastern part of Upper Canada, those prejudices are now at an end; and the greatest proof I will adduce to them will be this great demonstration, for which I most sincerely thank you. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then rose and said:

Ladies and Gentlemen, the next toast, "Canadian Enterprise and Progress," is one which we all as Canadians have sincere cause to be proud of, as when we look back for even a few short years and allow our minds to dwell on the rapid strides which she has made in enterprise and progress, we must admit that our success has been great indeed. [Hear, hear, and applause.] And, ladies and gentlemen, when I look around this room, when I see this large and enthusiastic meeting of the first men in this section of the country come to do honor to "Her Majesty's Canadian Ministers," I do indeed feel proud that the "Old Eastern District" has made also rapid strides, (hear, hear,) and that those men can come, nay, dare come without restraint to hear for themselves those men whom many were led to suppose had not the interests of our country at heart. But, ladies and gentlemen, if our banquet has been a great success, much of that success is due to the *great enterprise* of our country, (hear, hear,) an enterprise which has been often, in years gone by, held up to us as ruin, but which we all now admit has done more to promote the progress of our country than all its other enterprises. [Cheers.] And I feel more than happy in seeing amongst our guests the Managing Director of that great enterprise, C. J. BRYDGES, Esq., as also the Hon. JAMES FERRIER, Mr. SPICER, &c., (cheers,) and in my own name, and in the name of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, I thank them, not only for their presence, but also for the extreme kindness shown our Managing Committee, to which much of our success is due. [Cheers.] But that success of enterprise which produces progress is also in no little measure dependent upon the financial policy of the country. I therefore give you "Canadian Enterprise and Progress—coupling with it the name of the Hon. Mr. Galt." [Loud cheers.]

Hon. Mr. GALT said:—Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I can scarcely add one word to the fervid acknowledgments that have been made by my friends the Attorneys General East and West for the kind manner in which you have entertained us here to-night, though I am sure that on the many occasions on which it has been our pleasure to meet our friends, there has not been one when we have met with a heartier welcome than we are receiving from the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. (Hear.) I am to-night permitted to respond to the toast of "Canadian Enterprise and Canadian Progress," and no place in which to do so is fitter than the present. When we

look back at the difficulties that have been encountered by the first settlers who came here, and see what advancement they have made—when we observe what public men they have given to the country, and reckon up the benefits these men have conferred on their fellow subjects—we see that in no portion of Canada could this toast be more effectively proposed than in the Market Hall of Cornwall. (Hear, hear.) But there are circumstances which, on this occasion more than on others, induce me to ask you to lend me your especial attention,—I refer to the position in which the Trade and Commerce of this Province is at this moment placed. It would not under these peculiar circumstances, be fit for me or any of my colleagues to meet any large body of our countrymen without saying something in reference to the Past, and something also in relation to the Future. (Hear.) It is well, Sir, for Canada that when we are threatened with an interruption of our commercial intercourse with the adjoining country, we have been blessed by a beneficent Providence with a bountiful harvest and good prices for that harvest: that just when we are obliged to look to other markets for our future trade, a fuller measure of the benefits of our Creator has been showered upon us than for many years before. Within my recollection Canada was never in so prosperous a condition as it is at this present time. I judge by the returns, which are submitted to me in my official capacity, which show the extent of our exports and our imports, our dealings with England and all foreign countries, and I there see that in the last seven months we have sold ten millions of dollars worth (\$10,000,000) more than we have bought—a thing which has never before occurred,—and when I make this statement, I make one which certainly ought to bring forth feelings of thankfulness, and also of pride and self-reliance. [Applause.] It is well, Sir, that we should have such sentiments; it is well that we should feel that we are, that we *are* able to meet the difficulties which may arise from the fact that on the 17th of this month our Trade Relations with the United States will probably be subjected to serious disturbance. [Cheers.] The Government has been accused in the past with having acted with apathy in regard to this question. We were charged last Session with not having given due attention to it, for, we were told, the salvation of this country (if I may use the word) depended upon the maintenance of the Reciprocity Treaty. We informed Parliament that we were awake to the necessities of the time, and to the interest we had in continuing the freest possible intercourse with our neighbours in the United States—that our attention had been constantly directed to the subject, and that when the proper time came the people would be aware that the Administration had not been wanting in their duty in this respect. And when I appear before you this night, it is for the purpose of stating that we are ready now and at all times to enter into a statement and a defence of our policy on this question. [Hear, hear.] What I would ask any gentleman in these three counties, or in any part of Canada—what was the position of the country a few months ago? What did many men—the real enemies of the country—say would be the result of the cessation of our communications with the United States? More than its due importance, Sir, was given to that Trade, and the country was apparently willing to surrender for it more than ought to be given. The Government, however, did

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not share that feeling; they believed it was right to do what was fair, but to do no more than what was fair. [Cheers.] The attention of the Government was given to this subject in their negotiations in England, and the British Government, in the frankest way, authorized the British Minister to act with us upon the question. As long ago as July last my hon. friend Mr. Howland and myself were deputed by our colleagues to visit Washington. We there saw the British Minister and the American authorities also, and we perceived it was exceedingly improbable that any negotiations for a Treaty could be carried on at that time. We were indeed told that it was no use making any formal propositions to the American Government. When Congress was on the point of meeting it was again thought expedient that a representation from the Canadian Cabinet should go to Washington. Mr. Howland was then prevented by engagements from going, and I went alone. The result of my communications with the American authorities was an intimation that while they were willing to proceed by legislation, they were not willing to proceed by Treaty. I acquainted my colleagues with this, and stated the very grave doubts which existed in respect to the conclusion of satisfactory arrangements. The subject received the most anxious consideration at the hands of our own Minister and from Mr. Seward also, that a delegation went down again. It will be my duty to give all these statements very fully in another place; I may therefore pass over the historical part of the subsequent proceedings, and confine myself to stating what the intention and policy of the Government were. I shall not refer particularly at this moment to the resignation of Mr. Brown. It is not proper, especially in Mr. Brown's absence, that I should do so. Explanations respecting that will be given at the proper time to Parliament, but I say that his colleagues were unanimous as to the manner in which the question of Reciprocity should be treated, and that the course the Government determined to pursue was one we conceived to be alike consistent with the interests and dignity of Canada. We were determined that nothing should be proposed to be given to the United States that should not be conceded to Canada also, but we were not prepared to say that we would have a treaty and nothing but a treaty at a time when the United States had declared through their organs that no Treaty could be made and that it was unconstitutional to make a treaty—we were not prepared to refuse what could be got even though we were unable to get all we wished. (Hear.) It is of very little consequence whether the trade be maintained by legislation or by treaty, provided this trade be carried on upon an equitable basis. (Hear, hear.) A great deal has been said in regard to the course of the negotiations we have carried on at Washington. It has been asserted that a surrender has been made of the dignity of Canada—that we offered extravagant concessions to the United States, and so forth. With your permission, sir, I will occupy a very few minutes in disposing of these accusations. (Hear.) The first thing I shall notice is the fault found in the manner in which the Free List was proposed to be treated. We found that the principal ground the Americans had in opposing freedom of trade with us was connected with the taxation under which their people are laboring. They said that British people should not

come into their markets without bearing similar burdens to their own. But they never asked, and we never proposed that they should tax our exports without our having the same liberty to tax theirs. It was never proposed that if they chose to put a duty of one cent or of twenty cents on a bushel of Canadian wheat imported into the States, we should not have the option of putting an equivalent duty on American wheat imported into Canada. The Americans never dreamed of asking that they should impose duties on Canadian products which Canada should not have the right of imposing on theirs. And though we have been charged with assenting to, and indeed, even of proposing such a thing, I hope the men of Stornout, Dundas and Glengary will refuse to believe that their representatives would concede to a foreign country anything they would not claim for themselves. [Applause.] It was proposed to leave the canal, fisheries and transit questions in the same position as at present—that so long as other matters were satisfactory, the existing arrangements respecting them should go on—and I cannot conceive how it is possible that any man can make it a charge against the Government of Canada that we should be willing to continue agreements which have been beneficial, provided arrangements in other respects were satisfactory. [Hear.] It has been charged against us, again, that we went out of our way to offer to enlarge our canals. Now, I think, it will have been observed by any man who is in the habit of reading the papers, that there has been a pressure upon us for years to effect this enlargement—every body knows that, from one end of the country to the other. Why, the matter was expressly included in the resolutions of the Quebec conference. The subject was alluded to in the speech from the throne at the opening of the session when my hon. friend Mr. Howland first entered the Government. And only last August, in my place in Parliament, I made the declaration, with the assent of my colleagues, that the Government were prepared to enlarge the canals provided they had the assurance that the American Trade would be permitted to go through them. What more did we propose in Washington than just what we had laid down as our policy before? The canals are Canadian canals, and if they are to be enlarged it must be by Canadian means and under Canadian laws. [Hear, hear.] It has been said, too, that we agreed to make the legislation of Canada subordinate to the United States, and we have been charged with having done so in two ways, the first being that the legislation of the United States was to be contingent on ours. The fact is that the Americans were quite willing to let their legislation precede ours. They were willing to pass the necessary Acts of Congress at once, before the 17th of March, although they were told our Legislatures would not meet and be able to act before that time. If I understand logic at all, the party to whom the option is left is in the stronger position, and therefore if there was any subordination at all it was not on our side. But Sir, and gentlemen, it is perfectly childish to talk or think of such a thing when great countries are dealing with great interests—and I say that Canada and the United States are both great countries and that their mutual interests are great. The men who on such a matter would stickle on minor points of form would be unworthy of their position. It is not by standing up for such minor points that a man preserves his self-respect, but by holding

fast to those great points in which more than mere *etiquette* is concerned, and when the negotiations are examined, if it is found that Mr. Howland and myself were found wanting in this, then condemn us, and I will accept the verdict; but I will accept the verdict of no men who would condemn us because we did not insist on such a punctilio, even if the punctilio were against us. [Loud applause.] The *second* way in which we stand charged with having agreed to subordinate our legislation to the U. States, is in the matter of our excise duties; it has been said that we agreed to accept American legislation in reference to them. Now, on the 9th of August last I declred in Parliament that our Government were prepared to consider with the American Government such an arrangement of excise taxes as would prevent illicit trade across the frontier, and this was the amount of the proposition we made to the Committee at Washington, for we by no means proposed to enact any scale the Americans might adopt, but to take such a scale as experience might show to be the most desirable for revenue purposes. We agreed in the interest of amity and good friendship to use all the means a friendly power could use to prevent an illicit trade in spirits, &c., being carried on across the border—a trade, too, of such a nature as to result in the demoralization of the people along the frontier. That course was one that was adopted as the policy of the Government in August last, and it is the only course which honest, fair-dealing Statesmen could adopt with a neighbouring country like the United States. What should we have said to the authorities at Washington when we went to negotiate for a Commercial Treaty, if we had adopted such a system as would lay their whole frontier along two thousand miles open to illicit trade? That position is one I could never have consented to occupy, and one in which my friend Mr. Howland, would never have consented to back me up. [Cheers.] All we asked from the men at Washington, Sir,—all I hope we shall ever ask from them—was fair play. We asked them for no advantage in their market which we were not prepared to give them. We asked them to take no precaution on their side which we were not willing to take on ours. We asked them to take no further steps against the Fenians now, than we took against the raiders a year ago. And I am bound to say that in the interviews we had with these gentlemen at Washington—great and large and populous as their country is, and elated, as I may say they are, with the termination of their civil war—they met us with all the consideration that could have been shown to the emissaries of a country equal to theirs in population and standing. We failed to agree with them—we held a certain position for our people, and they held another, which we thought a mistaken one, for theirs; but we parted with mutual respect, and, I hope, with mutual kindly feelings, and in this we did our duty to the people of this country, towards whom an irritation has existed there based more on imagination than reality. [I hear, hear.] Again, it has been charged that in proposing to add articles to the former Free List, advantage was to be given to the Americans. What we said was this, “Let us see whether the Reciprocal Free List, which has benefited both countries so much, cannot be extended to certain classes of manufactures.” We had faith in the ability of our people to manufacture; we knew we had a cheaper country; we believed we had a people equal in



intelligence; we thought if our people had a fair start in the race, that being more lightly burdened, they would win it. If we were wrong, we were wrong in our estimate of the abilities of our people to compete with the Americans, and not in what was our conception of our duty towards them. [Loud cheers.] Once again, Sir, it has been said that our intention was to discriminate against our own Mother Country. A more flagrant violation of truth was never written. [Cheers.] Such an idea never entered the brain of any of the Delegates. We would never consent to treat our fellow subjects in Great Britain—with whom we are connected by the bonds of blood and of affection, worse than a foreign power. Whatever we were prepared to give to the United States, we were prepared to give to our mother country, aye, and more too. We were and are, and I hope shall be for centuries, willing to spend our last man and our last shilling for her. How can it be supposed that we would dream for a single instant of putting her productions on an inferior footing to those of the United States? I desire to give the most emphatic contradiction to any such statement as this. [Loud applause.] There are some points, Sir, in newspaper articles by which I have been assailed, respecting which I feel some degree of soreness, and I shall not hesitate to make you, gentlemen, my confidants to-night. My friend Mr. Howland and myself have been made the subjects of attack ever since we left Washington, day after day and week after week, in the columns of the leading journal of Upper Canada. Now I am well aware that the editor of the *Globe* and the Hon. George Brown are quite distinct individuals. [Laughter.] And I am quite sure that the Hon. George Brown, as a late member of the Government, is perfectly incapable of giving to the editor of the *Globe* any information which he promised to keep from the public until the meeting of Parliament. Were it otherwise, I should this very night make a great attack, a most violent attack, upon that honourable gentleman. [Renewed laughter.] But I think instead of assailing him, I may take the liberty of saying that the *Globe* has very greatly misrepresented my friend Mr. Howland and myself, and that not in the interest of the country, but in the spirit of a very narrow-minded malevolence. [Hear, hear.] If it be the case that the interests of the country were liable to injury by the public statement of the reasons of the differences that arose between Mr. Brown and his colleagues, why did he agree to wait until Parliament met before he told the public what these reasons were, when, if he shared the opinion of the *Globe*, he must have felt that the honor and interests of the country required their immediate disclosure? [Loud cheers.] It is singular that the editor of the *Globe* should be less patriotic than the proprietor of that paper. Nor does it seem fair for a man who has the use of a press and speaks every morning to 20 or 30,000 readers, to circulate his views, when a reply is out of the question. Mr. Brown will, no doubt, state his views when Parliament meets, and I intend to reply to him in the same way then. But to-night I cannot do so. I must be content now to attack the Editor of the *Globe*. [Hear, and laughter.] What has the course of that paper been—has it been in the interest of this country or not? When it has represented that our object was to give concessions to the Americans which we would not give to our own mother land, was not this certainly calculated

to stir up, in that mother country, a hostile feeling to this Province? Are not our efforts to keep up a friendly feeling at home being neutralized every day by the statements that the government of this country are disposed to concede to the United States privileges not to be conceded to England? [Cheers.] Was it not said that Confederation was imperilled by the course we took? If this were so, how was it, I should like to know, that in the negotiations at Washington the delegates from the Lower Provinces were heart and soul with us? Let me here pay a well deserved compliment to the Hon. Mr. Smith, of New Brunswick. He is the head of the anti-Confederate Government of that Province, but on every point of our negotiations he went as strongly with us as if he had been one of ourselves. And when I have paid this compliment to Mr. Smith, who is our opponent in party politics, let me tell you of the impression we carried away about Mr. Henry, who represented Nova Scotia, who has gone for Confederation through good report and evil report,—who believes that the Union will come, and come quickly too—who has taken up his cross in this respect, and is willing to carry it to the triumphant end. He, Sir, like Mr. Smith, agreed with us on every point; with an entire absence of selfishness, he agreed on the proposals we submitted to the Committee of Congress; he thoroughly agreed, too, in the rejection of the proposal made to us, and that, too, although there was some little appearance of a desire to wean the Maritime Delegates from their alliance with us, they representing fishing and sea-trading communities, and we an agricultural country, with, in some respects, different local interests. [Hear, hear.] I regret our failure at Washington. We proposed what I think it would have been the interest of the Provinces and of the United States to have adopted, viz., that a reasonable moderate scale of duties should be framed on articles that had been on the free list, which should be mutually adopted by Canada and the United States, so that the trade between the two countries should not be interrupted, but should flow on to the mutual advantage of both, in its natural and most convenient channels. We proposed that these duties should be gradually reduced, as the United States were able to take burthens off their own people. I know, however, that the general feeling throughout the country, from one end to the other, is not one of great regret that the negotiations have failed, but rather the contrary, and that the people seem glad that they are brought to try their own strength. I nevertheless express my great regret at our failure, because I believe we cannot suddenly change our customers without inconvenience, and because, as a practical man, I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that there will be a great disturbance of trade resulting from the termination of the treaty. I am not without hope that the time is not remote when the United States will restore the trade to a satisfactory footing, and I am sure that six months hence the course the Government has taken in endeavouring to secure its continuance, will meet our hearty approval. What has been the effect of our policy already—both in Canada and in the United States? a policy so loudly condemned by our opponents. When I look around me to-night I can see that the effect has been most beneficial here, for every man in Canada feels that we have gone as far as we ought to have gone, and that we have met with a very inadequate response. Every man in

Canada feels we must wake up and be independent of these people; that we can have nothing to do with them while they hold their present views; that we will not submit to anything like extortion or wrong at the hands of our neighbours; that we have offered them bread and they gave us a stone; and that we should now take our own course and try the thing out to the end. [Cheers.] And what has been the effect in the United States? I would ask any reflecting man what was the tone of the American people towards us two or three months ago? You could not then find one newspaper that would say a single word in favour of Reciprocal Trade. Now, however, many of the leading papers of the United States are saying that their people were wrong, and that our people were right; and is it nothing to have gained that position? Is it nothing to have gained the unanimous support of our own people, and to have induced probably the one half of the American people to avow that their rulers ought to have made an arrangement with us? Our policy, then, though it may not have accomplished all we could have desired, has yet accomplished much. [Loud applause.] The United States markets, Mr. Chairman, will be closed against us on the 17th of March. The people there will soon feel, we hope, that the course they are taking is an erroneous one, which will entail additional burdens upon themselves, and I believe it will not be long before different counsels will prevail, but we cannot hinge the policy of this country upon any such contingency as that. It is necessary for the Government to consider now, and it will be necessary for Parliament to consider soon in the most earnest way how they will deal with the commercial future of Canada, and what its Trade policy shall be. [Cheers.] It is perfectly clear that the Union with the Lower Provinces must speedily be carried out. We must complete our communications with them, and have our mutual commerce as free as possible. The Government have sent a commission to the West Indies and Brazil to forestall the action of the American Government. It is the intention of this Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission whenever they have made their report to Parliament. With regard to the markets of England and France, the two great consuming countries of Europe, it can scarcely be imagined that they can be made more free than they now are. But it is the duty of the Government to endeavour to make such arrangements with the Colonies of these Powers, and with Spain and her colony Cuba, as will secure the reciprocal interchange of some of their products and ours. [Hear, hear.] It is plain that the Government will have to propose to Parliament a complete revision of our system of taxation: for the burdens of the people will have to be readjusted to stimulate the great agricultural interest of the Province, and to make Canada at once the cheapest country to live in, and the most attractive country in the world for the labor and capital of foreign lands. [Hear, hear.] Our policy must be one of development and not of stoppage—development not of Canada alone, but of all the vast territory stretching from Newfoundland on the one hand to the Pacific on the other. We may have to postpone for a time the enlargement of the canals that has been spoken of for several years, because we have not yet the assurance that the American trade will be permitted to use them, but this will leave us all the more means for open-

ing up the great North-West. [Hear.] The opening up of these lands, Eastward and Westward, and especially Westward, will entail the inauguration of a new system of emigration. Emigration is what the New World must look to—and the fact that my hon. friend Mr. McGee is at the head of the department which has charge of that subject, must give the people confidence that emigration will be directed in the best manner for the hard-working sons of labour who come to Canada as a refuge from all parts of the world. [Cheers.] I am sure, Mr. Chairman, I ought to apologise for having detained the meeting so long. [No.] While your kindness forgives me, you will be glad to hear me conclude. [No, no.] I will only say this in conclusion, that if I rightly understand the spirit of this meeting—if I rightly understand the spirit of the people of Canada—the hopes and plans of those who think that the abolition of the Reciprocity Treaty will produce a sordid desire for Annexation, will totally fail. [Cheers.] If there are people who could be biassed by considerations such as these, they are unworthy to belong to any free country on the face of the earth. But, thank God, the spirit of British institutions is instilled deep into our hearts, and a bold, manly love for freedom which forbids any such thing as that. [Cheers.] We know how to hold out the right hand of friendship, but if it is refused we know how to draw it back again. Continually have the Government of this country laboured to perform their duties to the neighbouring people, but we expect the same from them,—with less we will not be contented. While we love our institutions, we will not interfere with theirs; and while we respect theirs, we expect respect from them for ours. [Loud cheers.] The difficulties of societies create great men; out of the difficulties of nations may spring great progress. [Hear, hear.] We have been in the habit of relying too much on the mother country, and too little on our own strong right arms, and this may be a lesson that is being given us for the purpose of teaching us to be more self-reliant. We are rising into a sort of national existence—an existence we hope to see maintained for ages under the rule of the Sovereign of Great Britain. The position we shall hereafter occupy will be one of higher importance and more note in the eyes of the world than that we have hitherto held as an ordinary colony, and it will entail on us greater responsibilities. Perhaps the trial we are now undergoing, is but one of the preliminary trials which are to determine whether we are fit for such a higher state of national existence. And when I look on the countenances of the men of Stormont, Dundas and Glengary, I know that they are ready, and I have faith that all the broad country on either side of your counties' limits is ready, too, for whatever the Future may have in store. [Rounds of applause.]

The CHAIRMAN then spoke as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen, the great question of our country at the present time is the confederation of our British possessions on this continent, (hear, hear, and loud cheers,) and that it must have been considered of paramount importance, I need only refer to the present coalition ministry, (cheers,) a coalition with which all have heartily sympathised, (cheers,) and the very idea of such a coalition being formed from such opposing elements, must in-

deed convince the most sceptical that the affairs of our country had arrived at such a crisis that some such action should be taken, (hear, hear,) and, ladies and gentlemen, I am sure you will agree with me in saying that those gentlemen who entered into this coalition, who, for the time at least, were willing to forget all the asperities and differences of opinion which actuated them, deserve well of our country. [Loud cheers.] And that the object of such coalition may be soon obtained, we sincerely wish, (cheers,) and that the union between those gentlemen, so happily begun, may long continue. [Hear, hear.] I therefore give you the seventh toast, a most important one indeed, not only in my opinion, but, I think I am safe in saying, in the opinion of a large majority of this great meeting, viz., "British America United for Ever." [Enthusiastic cheers.]

Hon. Mr. HOWLAND, on rising to respond to the toast, was very warmly received. He said—Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, the sentiment which you have proposed is one that at all times would afford me the greatest amount of pleasure to respond to. It is one that I would respond to not only with words, but with all the strongest feelings of my heart, and it is one that I am happy to see that this meeting thoroughly coincides with. We have evidence in the manner in which the toast has been received, that every individual present agrees with the sentiment enunciated in it. (Cheers.) But whilst I appreciate the sentiment of the toast—and I think it is the most important one you have proposed at this meeting—I have at the same time to regret that you have felt yourself constrained to call upon me to reply to it. I regret it, not because I am unwilling to respond to it to the best of my ability and power, but because I am really worn out and unable to do justice to it, as well from the effects of fatigue as from incapacity as a public speaker. But late as it is, and feeble as I am, I will not allow the occasion to pass without trespassing upon the patience of this audience in order to say a few words upon a question in which I am, and I have no doubt you are, highly interested. (Cheers.) It is a question which causes me to be where I am to-night in the position I now occupy; and it is, in my opinion, of paramount importance to the future welfare of this country, that this question—this measure of Confederation—should be consummated. (Loud Cheers.) My friend the Attorney General West, who is so well able to elucidate any question, has given you a history of the formation of what is called the coalition government. He has done that in a more able manner than I would be capable of doing it, and therefore I will not repeat any portion of it; but I will merely say this, as being due to you, being my first appearance before you, that at the formation of that coalition, I myself being a member of the Legislature and one of the representatives of the people, it became my duty in that capacity to decide upon my course of action, and I did not hesitate at that time, in common with my friends and colleagues in the Legislature, to agree to lay aside all party considerations, issues and contests, for the purpose of obtaining this object, which was looked upon by all of us as of the highest importance to the present and future welfare of this country. (Loud cheers.) It was certainly a very extraordinary spectacle,

and one that you will scarcely find paralleled in the political history of any other country, to see parties lay down all their weapons of warfare and set aside all their prejudices and feelings for the purpose of obtaining a great common object which they both acknowledge was for the interest and good of the country; and I do say it is an example that entitles those who were engaged in it to the highest consideration of the people of this country. (Cheers.) And while I say that those gentlemen who made this sacrifice of feeling and party passion to effect this object in the way they did are deserving of the gratitude of the people of this country, they have given evidence that they themselves have an equally high appreciation of the object in view, and are equally ready to sacrifice their own feelings and their own local and party interests for the purpose of its attainment. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Chairman, having agreed that this was an object of paramount importance over all others for the future good of this country, and having agreed that a government should be formed especially for the purpose of its attainment, and that during the period that was necessary should elapse between its formation and the attainment of that object party issues should be set aside—having agreed, I say, to all that, I have ever since felt it my duty to adhere to the bond. (Loud and prolonged cheers.) Whilst I have not found anything in the general course pursued by the government since its formation in the way described that I could dissent from, and whilst I have found nothing in its ordinary policy which I could not heartily approve, I have felt it my duty under these circumstances to adhere to the original arrangement, and to carry it through as far as my poor abilities and assistance may be necessary to help it. (Cheers.) I will ask to be allowed, in a few words, to express my regret that I am called upon here, as leader of the Reform section of the government, to respond to this toast. I regret it because one who occupied that position, and who would have much more ably fulfilled this duty, is no longer with us; and I regret it the more because that gentleman's ability and influence and position in the country make it important that the Government should have his co-operation in carrying out that which is for the interest of the country. I regret that he is not here with us as a member of the Government, still co-operating with us for all the objects we have in view. (Hear, hear.) I shall not, sir, go into the details of the measure that is proposed for confederating these Provinces. I do not think that at this late hour of the night, or rather early hour of the morning, it would be desirable for me to make, or agreeable to you to listen, to any such statement. I will merely say that I think we have the strongest evidence on the part of the people of this Province, I may say almost without exception, because there has been no public demonstration whatever that I have heard of in which any portion of the people have collectively said that they do not desire it—I say I think we have the strongest evidence that they are in favor of the scheme that has been submitted to them. (Loud cheers.) I think it must be apparent to any man who has the slightest conception of the subject that a political union of these Provinces must as a consequence bind all their interests together, and have a tendency to increase our importance, extend our prosperity, and add to our security. (Loud cheers.) I myself

extend our prosperity, and add to our security. (Loud cheers.) I myself believe that the system of Government under which we in common with the rest of the Empire live, is one that is most likely to give us liberty and order; and I believe that there is scope enough in this portion of North America which is under the British Crown to form a nation under that system which may become equal to any other in any portion of the earth, and that will redound and contribute to the glory, happiness and welfare of the world. (Loud cheers.) I should have been most happy, Sir, to the best of my humble ability, to have gone more elaborately into the question of chief importance now before the people of Canada; but considering the very late hour, and the fatigue which I have undergone, and which unfits me to perform the labor, I shall crave your kind consideration and indulgence, and close my remarks by joining my colleagues in expressing my thanks for this magnificent demonstration, for which we all feel very much indebted to the inhabitants of this section of the country. (Loud cheers.) I look upon this part of Canada as the mother, as it were, of our portion in the West. In the last thirty years I have found all around me men occupying leading positions in almost every profession and branch of business, and when I became acquainted with them and inquired as to their native place, I have found that they have come from these united counties of Stormount, Dundas and Glengarry (Cheers.) I may add that I have never met with any who did discredit to their parentage or birthplace. (Loud and hearty cheering.)

Mr. MCGIVERIN—I feel that at this late hour I ought not to detain you, but having been requested to propose “the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry,” I cannot decline the honor. This occasion is certainly a very important one. The period is eventful, for we are in the midst of circumstances which will have a great influence on the future of the country. We are forming, I may say, a new nationality, and it is the plain duty of all, of whatever shade of political feeling, to sink party politics at least for the time, and unite in carrying into effect that great scheme of Union now before the people. (Cheers.) I am here somewhat accidentally; but I feel happy that I am here that I may testify by my presence and voice that Mr. Howland, my political leader in the Government, shall have my support in developing into practice the Confederation agreed upon at the Conference at Quebec, which was afterwards so unanimously sustained by the liberal party in Upper Canada. I have always identified myself in this country with the liberal interest, and I have honestly sustained and supported the liberal principle of government ever since I have had a vote, nor do I intend to change. As I understand this question, after the plans for the confederation of the Provinces had arrived at a certain stage, the matter was submitted by Hon. Mr. Brown to the liberal members from Upper Canada, who, after maturely considering the great subject in all its possible bearings, felt that justice and their plain duty to themselves, to their constituents and to their country, rendered it necessary to sink all party feelings and differences for the accomplishment of these purposes. (Cheers.) There is no doubt that party feeling for some years had risen to an extreme, nay, even to an alarm-

ing extent, so much so that at one time many feared it might ultimately result in difficulties similar to those which we have witnessed during the last few years in the United States. This was one reason why the Upper Canada Reformers felt it to be their duty to sink their differences with the Conservatives and sustain the men they had hitherto condemned in carrying out what they believed, and which I think a large proportion of the people of the British North American Provinces will feel, ere long, is for their protection and interest, namely, the union into one great country of our hitherto disjointed Provinces. (Cheers.) As a member representing one of the important constituencies of this country, after hearing all the views submitted to the consideration of the conference held in Quebec, I stated that I for one would support Mr. Brown in his alliance with Mr. Macdonald for that object, believing such to be my duty to my country. I have thus far carried out that pledge, and until I see reasons for changing my course, more than I have thus far seen, I shall still continue honestly to carry out and redeem it, for it was made not simply to Mr. Brown personally, but to the other members who entered the Government with him. (Loud applause.) I do not believe a public man is at liberty to sacrifice his word and his honor, and no man has a right to place himself in such a position. I have failed as yet to see sufficient cause to warrant me in withdrawing from my pledges in this matter,—and I intend to adhere to them. Now, Sir, the liberal party have sustained the late President of the Council for years in the most generous manner,—they have placed unbounded confidence in him, and I for one have always been one of his great admirers, recognizing in him a man of great force of character, of great ability, who has done and is capable of doing a great deal of good in this country. (Hear.) I regretted very much at this important crisis in the position of our affairs to hear of his withdrawal from this government, from a position in which he was sustained almost unanimously by the liberal men of Upper Canada. He entered that government for a specific purpose, prepared to sink all other considerations for the attainment of a great object, and I am sorry he has deemed it necessary at this critical period to retire. Time alone must decide whether he is right or wrong. (Cheers.) I speak only my own sentiments, but I do not think he should not have retired without at least having given some intimation to the party that placed him in that position and sustained him honestly in it, without at least some consultation with them. I feel it necessary and important that a public man should speak out plainly on public questions, and I wish to speak frankly now. I had my feelings of difference, nay I confess it was with some reluctance I agreed to support a government in which were men whom I had previously condemned; because whatever may be our respective political feelings we hold to them with sincerity, and it is difficult to cast them suddenly aside, and meet with our antagonists, as we did meet, a happy family, for the purpose of carrying out one great object. But having done that, I, for one, believe it to be my duty not to withdraw my support from that government until the object for which it received its being was abandoned or accomplished, and on that ground I do feel that Mr. Brown should have explained his position to his friends before his retirement or



withdrawal. (Cheers.) Mr. Howland, with a very different spirit, did meet his political friends, and submitted the matter to their consideration. After mature thought they agreed to sustain him; and I believe myself that, to a man, they thought he was right. In the meantime, however, great difficulties and great injury to the interests of this country may have arisen from a misapprehension of our present condition. The Government have very important measures under their consideration: the enlargement of the canals, the opening up of the North-West, as well as the Confederation of these great Provinces;—measures approved by men of all shades of political policy, by all classes of the country; and we therefore should not fail to reflect before taking a course that may not only affect the reciprocal trade relations between the United States and this country, but by upsetting that government destroy the prospect of carrying out these important measures. (Hear, hear.) Furthermore, it is a question that involves so many important considerations and so many points already touched upon, that at this period of the evening I really think I shall be intruding on your patience. (Cries of "go on, go on.") Upon the subject of reciprocity I do think every one in Canada will admit that it is the interest of this country seriously to consider our position and our trade relations with the United States, before we cast aside that matter, disregard everything relating to it, and at once state in the teeth of the American people that we will have nothing to do with them, and that we can live without them, however true this may or may not be. It is not an easy matter to change a part of the trade relations of a country, involving more than one-half of its foreign trade in one year or one month; and I do think the Government have acted wisely in endeavoring to renew the arrangements we have had while maintaining the integrity and independence of this country. I believe it was our duty, consistently with our honor and self-respect, to do everything we possibly could to secure freedom of trade with the Americans, whether by treaty or whether as a mere temporary arrangement, by legislation. After doing all that a people can do, and failing in that, we should strike out a course for ourselves. (Applause.) I believe, Sir, this country does not need to depend upon the United States. I believe that we have immense wealth, and that we shall be able to maintain a separate commercial existence, and to flourish independently. (Cheers.) Now, in reference to my political belief, I believe that this is not considered a political meeting. There is a sentiment expressed in the motto on the wall that actuated the people of this part of the country in bringing the Government together here, viz., "British America united forever;" and I say forever let us stand by our colors, be true to our country, and success will surely attend us. Mr. McGiverin resumed his seat amidst loud applause.

Mr. AULT, M.P.P. for Stormont, responded.

Hon. Mr. McGEE then proposed "The Mayor and Town Council of Cornwall," to which Dr. ALLAN responded in fitting terms.

He next proposed, in a witty speech, "The Ladies,"—responded to by Mr. R. MACFARLANE, Secretary to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN called on

MR. MORRIS, M.P.P. for South Lanark, to propose the toast of The Press, and in rising to do so, he said, the early hour of the morning warned him to forbear any remarks, and simply to propose the toast. (Cries of no, no, go on.) Possibly, his friends thought they had a claim upon him, as he had, as they knew, many relatives in Cornwall, and therefore he would, in deference to the wish of the audience, indulge in a remark or two; and first, he would remind some of his friends, that the meeting was by no means exclusively Scottish, but that, on the contrary, the Irish and the Dutch elements were largely represented. (Cheers.) But to be brief, he would say that this great gathering, assembled irrespective of party, for both parties were there (cheers,) had, at this great crisis in the history of our country, a real meaning and significance, and he thought he read that meaning aright when he interpreted it as being that the large assemblage now met desired to declare in the most emphatic way, and to ask the Press to wait the message, alike across the ocean to the shores of Britain and to the neighbours across the frontier, in the American Union, that, while Canadians desired to live in harmony with their neighbours, yet, the British American people, true to their lineage, had resolved to tell the world that British freemen never would sell their birth-right for a mess of American pottage. [Loud cheers.] And with regard to the question of Reciprocity he desired to take the opportunity to say that he thought, as a part of the empire, British North America had been bound first, in view of duty to the mother country, to entrust negotiation, in the way of concession within reason, and having failed in that, then it was their duty to fall back upon their self-reliance—to develop their resources—to open new channels of trade and to find in close Colonial Union the means of retaining and advancing upon their present position. [Cheers.] But, in conclusion, as the time was speeding on, he had great satisfaction in proposing the Press of Canada. The Press was a credit to the Province; scarce any country had a Press which reached the whole community so extensively as the Press of Canada, and besides it was an active, intelligent, enterprising and independent Press. Its influence told, and had reason to tell, on our whole community, and he therefore had great pleasure in proposing "The Press of Canada." [Cheers.]

Responded to by Mr. OLIVER of Cornwall, and Mr. CHAMBERLIN of Montreal.

The whole affair was a brilliant success—the arrangements such as reflected the greatest credit on the members of the Committee.



