

lar declaratory clauses are found in the Quebec Act, and the Union Act of 1840, they were both statutes framed in England exclusively, while the clauses, and all the remainder, were drafted and proposed by Colonists only. It is remarkable that a hundred years after the Stamp Act and Tea Tax; ninety years after the Declaration of Independence; nearly half a century after the promulgation of "the Monroe Doctrine"; the representatives of these Provinces should have taken upon themselves, so solemnly to re-assert as fundamental constitutional propositions, the sovereignty of the English Crown, over all our territory. (Applause.) What was done in this way in 1840, and in 1799, was done by others; but these declaratory clauses are our own work. I do not say that we are free to take any other course; I do not pretend that we could have raised, even if we would, the question of Sovereignty, in 1864 or in 1867; I only speak of the cardinal fact as I find it, that we have here, by our own act, selected the monarchical form of Government for ourselves and for our children; that for them and for ourselves, we have entered into this solemn compact to uphold the constitutional monarchy in this country; and that the Queen, and her Imperial Parliament and Government, have, on their part, by the passage of this Bill with these provisions, with equal solemnity, constituted themselves parties to this compact and agreement. (Hear, hear.) I do not desire, sir, to dwell at present, on all the corollaries and consequences likely to flow from this formal and solemn establishment of monarchy on this Continent, by the voluntary act of four millions of its inhabitants, but this is the path which by this Act, we have voluntarily chosen to enter—by this path, if we are not to abandon it, we are to journey on into the future, and whither it leads there we must follow. Sir, for one, I can truly say, that I saw and felt all along the solemnity of the selection we were called upon to make, but I never doubted, no not for one instant, that we had decided well in choosing to affirm so unmistakably as we have done the principles of Constitutional and responsible monarchy, for these Provinces. I am fully aware of the intense propagandist force which resides in the democratic idea. I know there are democratic fanatics who damn all other sects in politics, but their own; but looking back to the venerable centuries of Christian civilization which have preceded us, I am not taught, that it is best for the people, that the headship of the State should be frequently elective. Our Republican

[Mr. McGee (Montreal West)]

neighbours may prefer their own institutions as much as pleases them; but at all events, they must allow us to have a preference also, even though it should not quite coincide with their own. (Hear, hear.) We can honour and reverence their illustrious Martyr President, who fell a victim to his duties; but they must permit us also, to reserve some of our admiration and sympathy, for the Martyr of Queretaro, as well as the Martyr of Mexico: for that gallant gentleman, a true Prince, the worthiest to rule that Mexico had ever seen, but of whom Mexico was not worthy: that cruelly murdered Prince, whose effigy the House of Hapsburg may be proud to raise in long procession of the Illustrious Princes, his ancestors! Sir, I certainly cannot agree with the honourable member (Mr. Howe) that the time or the means chosen, ought to subject us to the displeasure of our Republican neighbours. This Union project is a very old one—as old as the country, and though hastened by recent events among them and among ourselves, it certainly dates long beyond the firing by Beauregard on Fort Sumter. No question of Sovereignty was raised by us; we merely embodied and re-affirmed a power that already existed, and which the Republic always recognized as existing in North America. If we had sought to plant a despotism by their side—without representative institutions—without securing the common rights of free men, sprung from the same source as their own; then, indeed, they might have cause for suspicion and displeasure. As it is I deny that we have given them any such cause, and I submit that such an argument, or assertion ought not to be advanced on the floor of a Canadian Parliament. (Hear, hear.) The honourable member opposite (Mr. Howe) also bestowed a good deal of his ready ridicule on the expression so often used in His Excellency's Speech—of "a new nationality." He was not precise in stating his objections to the use of that expression; but I inferred that he thought it premature as to time, and inconsistent with the continuance of the Imperial connection. He talked of walking upon stilts, and having "the stilts knocked from under us," as if our increased stature as a people in 1867, was a forced and artificial increase. I need not surely remind the honourable member, that in the year 1800 including Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, with the British mainland we were less than 400,000 souls altogether; and when the Sydenham Union was carried, about two millions, while we are now, including the same Provinces, fully 4,000,000. (Hear,