

hear.) These living millions are stilts, and we are vain enough to think we can stand on them. In 1790, the United States commenced with a total population of 3,900,000 souls, but they had, it is true, no gigantic native neighbours on their flanks; still they had the power of England on this side, of Spain in the Floridas, and of France in Louisiana. They began modestly and moderately, and they have advanced by degrees, in their "new nationality". I ask the honourable gentleman this question—if he does not look forward to a new nationality here, in these Provinces, to what does he look forward? Surely he must see that a population which increased in sixty years, a hundred fold, cannot be reckoned upon as a stationary quantity? With some nations the best ambition is to keep what they have got; but these are nations of fixed population and full boundaries. Extending as we are in space—increasing in number—improving in intercourse—we cannot stand still politically, even if we tried. (Hear, hear.) But the honourable member and his followers seem to have some confused notion in their heads, that a new nation cannot exist within the Empire, consistently with the Imperial connection. Sir, I don't know where they got such a notion, but it is a very childish one, and contrary to all experience. The Federal principle is precisely adopted to meet a difficulty of that kind, and has for many centuries met it successfully. In the German Empire there never was any difficulty as to the simple existence of separate nationalities and kingdoms; in the Spanish Empire, so long as its sovereigns respected the rights and liberties of the component parts, there was no difficulty of holding together the kingdoms of the Netherlands, of Aragon, and Naples; in the Austrian Empire, when the rights of the ancient kingdom of Hungary were respected the kingdom was in fact, the mainstay of the Empire. In our own day, we have in Hindostan an Empire within an Empire, so constituted expressly on the ground of strengthening the Imperial connection by the wisest statesmen, our contemporaries. So far, therefore, as to that childish and foolish notion of incompatibility. But the honourable member will not allow, that even with our four millions, we have men enough to start in the onerous career of a new nationality. What amount of population does he suppose then to be necessary to such a start? For colonies, as colonies, to get together and keep together, four millions of inhabitants is no small achievement, and if we have not increased more largely by immigration of

late years than we have—if our present population is 80 per cent native born to 20 per cent born abroad—I will tell the honourable member why we have not attracted and retained more people, from the other side of the Atlantic. We have not attracted more people, because we have not made our country attractive; because we are not known as a nation abroad; because these isolated Provinces did not impress the imagination of the emigrating classes. Who in the byeways of Germany, or even of Britain, knew anything of Canada, up to the other day? In those hives of human labour, they knew only one country—America—and one seaport—New York. But once give your Provinces united the aspect of Empire, make them a power and a name, and the reputation and credit of the Dominion will be our best immigration agents abroad. (Hear, hear.) As to our inability to stand alone, with the numbers we have, I beg to observe, sir, that in my opinion, it depends very much on our unanimity or division. No power on earth can take forcible possession of this country, if we are united as one man, in its defence. (Applause.) No population that can be stirred up against us, can put a hostile four millions, face to face with us on our own soil. If every man, woman and child in Canada, is imbued with the spirit which enabled Switzerland to hold her own against the Austrian Empire, and Spain in her decline to cast out Napoleon in his vigour, we will be safe enough, within our rivers and rapids in summer, and our snowed up roads and freezing skies in winter. (Hear, hear.) We complain sometimes of our rigorous winters, but there is this compensation at least, that no invading force that bivouacked out for one genuine Canadian night, would ever answer to the call of the long roll again. (Hear, hear.) My own views on the subject of defence are pretty well known, and when my honourable friend (Mr. Cartier) brings down his measure, if the House desires to hear them, I shall be happy to meet its wishes: but I will now only say this, that I hope to see the military spirit of our population encouraged in every way; that I hope to see rifle matches and tournaments become as familiar municipal institutions as town meetings, of county agricultural fairs. (Applause.) I cannot, for one, agree that the best way to make ourselves respected abroad, to secure impunity from attack, is to depreciate the sources of our strength; but rather to rely upon and make the most of what Lord Bacon, in his "true greatness of Britain," considers a main element of a nation's strength, "its