

in her Legislature at its ratification. But I ask where will Nova Scotia be, when the whole power is placed in the hands of Canadians, to barter away her interests whenever it may suit them. One of the conditions most prized by the American people in effecting that treaty, is the right to our fisheries. Now with Canada's anxiety for the continuance of that treaty, what regard will she have for the particular interests of Nova Scotia when, as I have already shown you, we shall be powerless at Ottawa, so far as our representation is concerned. Again he asks where was New Brunswick, when a slice was cut off her, and given to Maine? I reply she was just in the position that Nova Scotia was, when a piece was taken from her territory and handed over to New Brunswick—in the hands of those who did not regard her interests. There is, however, this difference—the "slice" we lost went to a sister colony, which is some satisfaction, but not equal to what I have, no doubt the Pro. Secy. felt, in getting rid of a number of voters of the wrong political stripe.

The hon. gentleman wants to know who is not humiliated, when he finds that Canada is only mentioned in the debates concerning these Provinces, in the British Parliament. I rather take it as a compliment, that Canada has alone been mentioned. The Government of England have had no cause of complaint against Nova Scotia, on the ground of unwillingness to make preparation for her defence, but she had a reason for dissatisfaction with Canada. We have also heard of the Grand Trunk Railway, and of the transactions connected with it, which have given Canada a reputation, I am glad to say, Nova Scotia does not possess. Notoriety is not necessarily fame. There may be a celebrity that does not carry with it any weight of respectability. The Siamese Twins became celebrated—but it was for their unnatural connexion; and should this Confederation be accomplished, we too shall have a chance of becoming celebrated, as being in our geographical position, a string of Siamese Twins. When the Union with New Brunswick was discussed here last session, I made a calculation of the proportionate size of the strips of land connecting us with New Brunswick to the Provinces, as compared with the proportion of the ligature connecting Chang and Eng. to their whole size, and found that our ligature is very much proportionately less. In their case you have two men, perfect in all their formation, but by a freak of nature so bound together, that their powers of free action and usefulness are destroyed. In this case each province is a perfect geographical formation of itself, having its own centre of interest, its own heart within itself. If it were possible to take the Siamese Twins, and reform them, and make of the two one powerful man, with one heart then, unfettered and free, he would be effective to discharge the duties of life. And just so if you could remould these Colonies by a Confederation and bring them into compact shape, so that there should be one common centre of interest—one heart from which the life blood sustaining the whole should flow to the extremities and return, then would the Union commend itself to my mind;

and I should wish it "God speed." This is an impossibility, and therefore we should be content as are brothers who are not "Siamese Twins" each having and exercising his individuality; but all united by the bonds of family affection. Let us then be content to go on prospering as we have, and at the same time cultivating the ties of brotherhood with the other Colonies, and above all, let us not take a step that will tend to sever our connection with England. My strong desire is to see this connection continued, that through our lives we may glory in the grandeur and greatness of the British Empire, and leave behind us those who shall inherit the same feelings of loyal attachments to her Crown and Institutions, that the same sentiments may bind together the people of these colonies. Every heart beating in unison—even as one great heart—when waked by the strains of "Rule Britannia" and "God Save the Queen."

**Speech of Mr. Shannon.**

Hon. Mr. SHANNON said—I do not intend to make any lengthened speech, but will merely avail myself of the portion of time left, before the adjournment of the house, to give expression to a few practical ideas in reference to this great question, which have been passing through my mind. In the first place, I may remark that ever since the commencement of the American Union, or rather ever since the adoption of the present constitution, the leading minds connected with the Colonies have turned their attention to the subject of a Colonial Union. It was not to be wondered at that when they saw the great prosperity resulting from that Union under the American constitution, they should deem similar benefits might flow from the adoption of a similar course in British North America. Among the earliest who approached this subject was Chief Justice Sewell, who was one of the prominent men of Canada, and who wrote upon the question. Again and again the subject was brought forward, but it was left to Lord Durham to give it greater prominence in his celebrated report. That nobleman came to this continent clothed with the highest powers, and on a mission of the greatest importance,—that of quieting, if possible, the disturbances of Canada. He saw the isolated condition of these Colonies, and contrasted them with the strength and power of the U. States, and he felt and expressed the necessity of a Union. I have often regretted that advantage had not been taken of that opportunity to have consolidated the whole of British America, not merely to unite Upper and Lower Canada. At that time the Colonies were in a different position from what they are now. Then we were subject to the fiat of the Colonial Secretary, and an act of Parliament could easily have been obtained at the time Lord Durham returned to England, and would have been received as law by all. His Lordship, however, was too much imbued with Republican ideas, and I am not sure that he would have arranged his plan upon the monarchical principles, which, I am happy to say, pervades the scheme which was adopted at Quebec.

From the time of Lord Durham down to the present, we have had in every colony, from time to time, statesmen who have brought the