

existence within territories of the same nation—territories lying near to one another, alike in climate, natural productions, and the social condition of their inhabitants—the existence, he said, within such territories of a multiplicity of laws, each having a distinct local application upon almost every question of human rights; and of a plurality of courts—each peculiarly constituted, and having its peculiar rules of practice—administering those laws, hampered the authorities in the administration of justice, tended to the promotion of crime, and seriously inconvenienced commercial intercourse between the various parts of those territories; and the desirability of the contemplated Confederation was, in his opinion, greatly heightened by the certain prospect which it afforded of the removal of those grievous anomalies by means of judicious and remedial action on that score by the Federal Legislature. Independent local legislation in each of a group of Provinces or Territories so circumstanced was, in some, and those too very important, respects, a positive evil; for it could not but result in difference of laws productive of such evil results as those to which he had just adverted; and such legislation had the additional evil effect of cherishing those local prejudices and feelings of separate interests, which tend so decidedly to the estrangement of each member of a Confederation from its fellows. The Island anti-confederates had—most unjustly and ungenerously, he was again constrained to say—declared, again and again, that such of our public men as advocated Confederation had been won over to that advocacy by the corrupting influence of Canadian gold, and had basely, with a view to their own individual aggrandizement and enrichment, agreed to barter away our priceless Constitution. The charge of bribery, which had thus been boldly preferred against such of the Island Deputies to Canada as had openly avowed and advocated their convictions in favor of Confederation, were beneath contempt or notice, although it would be easy to reply that perhaps American silver or greenbacks had not been without their corrupting and denationalizing effect amongst the anti-confederates. And he might ask these most unscrupulous calumniators, if they would dare to say that the venerable Archbishop Connolly and Bishop McKinnon, the gallant General Mills, the veteran General Douglas, or Sir James Hogg, who had perilled his life at the storming of the Peble Port in China, had been bribed into an advocacy of the proposed Confederation for these Provinces? He thought not. If those ambitious, greedy and great men were, he would have happily sworn numbered amongst the most strenuous advocates of that great project. He thought not. But as to the ridiculous assertion that the advocates of Confederation were prepared to sacrifice our priceless Constitution for the establishment of a Federal Union, it was sufficient to refer to the terms of the Quebec Scheme of that Union, which showed most clearly that nothing was farther from the mind of the Belgians who sat in the Quebec Conference than the sacrifice of their respective Provincial Constitutions. The powers which, by that Scheme, were conferred upon the Federal Legislature were such as would neither require, nor necessitate, a consolidation of the several separate Provincial Constitutions, although separate legislation under those several Constitutions would certainly be restricted to certain classes of subjects, and confined within narrower limits than those

which originally circumscribed their operation; and so happily controlled would it be by the General Government or Federal Parliament, that no rivalry of interests could spring up between different Provinces. A reference to the Union of Scotland with England, as made by the hon. member from East Lothian, so far from yielding arguments against the Confederation of the British American Provinces, afforded the strongest in favor of it. The great benefits of that national treaty had been generally felt and acknowledged for the last hundred years. From the period of its consummation, there was awakened, in Scotland, a spirit of industry and enterprise formerly unknown in that country; and, ever since, the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, inalienably to their mutual benefits, have been gradually forgetting their former subjects of discord, and uniting cordially, as one people, in the improvement and defence of their common country—the island which they inhabit. Scotland's greatest grievances, arising out of the Union, was that which she felt in the deprivation of her native and independent legislature, and her metropolis ceasing to be the abode of royalty; and, indeed, the restoration of their national parliaments was yet eagerly desired by large sections of the populations of both Scotland and Ireland. Under Confederation, however, each of the Provinces would retain its own Legislature and Government, for the management of its own local affairs, limited in power only to such an extent as would prevent its operating in favor of its own prosperity at the expense of any of the others. Of the advantages of Union, the United States, since their attainment of independence—notwithstanding their late disastrous dislocation and narrow escape from complete dismemberment—afforded the most conclusive evidence, by their increase in area, wealth, and physical strength, having progressed, in each of these particulars, to such an extent as has excited the wonder and admiration of the world. Some of our Island politicians, however, had expressed their visceral abhorrence in the pathos of a single word, "the glory argument," as it was called; but, by their own parties did not think that; again and again, he truly he said to have a common voice, a common heart, and a common rebellion, and glory in the battle of tomorrow. They who laughed at the glory argument, and who despised what had enabled our British ancestors to drive the redskins across the great lakes, and to the sound of the drum, and the bayonet, and the pellucid victory, to the annihilation of the heathen savages, and to the establishment of the British Empire, he was bold to say would give the same glory to the Anglo-Saxon genius in the establishment of a British Empire, and to Anglo-Saxon patriots, and to the people of the very, nothing within the bounds of human power, was unattainable. The practicability of a Confederation of the Provinces, and Territories of British North America, to their utmost extent, and giving, into a great national power, in all respects, to geographical difficulties, first coming to be regarded as a very visionary idea. The empire of which he spoke, from the foundation, would do, not only to the people, only to those of Russia, China, and Brazil, and, in commanding position, its advantages would be equal to those of all the three combined. The people of the United States had not been slow to perceive all that; and twice, with a view to a forcible annexation of these