The Examiner.

Charlottetown, November 21, 1864.

OPINIONS OF THE DELEGATES ON THE CONFEDERATION.

The public journals of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are publishing the speeches of their respective Delegates, delivered in Canada, in connection with the Union Question, at the several Banquets there. We think we ought to do the same in respect to our Delegates, not because the gentlemen who composed the Delegation from this Island entertain any silly vanity about seeing their speeches reproduced; but by giving publicity to their opinions, as revised by themselves, we shall protect them from misconception, and defeat the insidious arts of some persons in the community, who would fain make it appear that there was not unanimity of sentiment amongst the Island Delegates on the general question of Union. Such of the Maritime Delegates as were present at the last Meeting of the Conference, at Montreal, on their way home to the Island, signed the Parchment Report of the Convention—Mr. Palmer was amongst the number of those who signed it, although, we understand, he expressed or made some mental reservation to the effect that his signature was merely a verification of the Report. All the other Delegates might have made, and probably did make a similar reservation, but nothing of the kind appears on the face of the document.

To return, however, to the Speeches:—The Banquet given by the Board of Trade at Quebec, on the 15th October, was the first public occasion on which the Delegates expressed their views in answer to the toast of their health. The Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia (Dr. Tupper) and the Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick (Mr. Tilley) spoke on behalf of their respective Provinces, and Mr. Shea (Speaker of Newfoundland Assembly,) spoke on behalf of that Colony. The Hon. Col. Gray, Leader of our Government, spoke on behalf of this Island. His Speech was as follows:—

COL. GRAY'S SPEECH AT BOARD OF TRADE DINNER, QUEBEC, OCT. 15.

Hon. Col. GRAY, Premier of Prince Edward Island, also responded. He said his friend Mr. Tilley had referred to him in connection with a subject of great importance. It was, however, a dry and unpalatable subject. His friend Col Jervois would understand the allusion, and he was afraid he might not exactly approve himself in the eyes of the chairman and of those around these tables, if he were to express fully his sentiments on this all-important matter. Labouring under a severe cold, he should not have risen at all, if he had not felt bound, on behalf of his colleagues and the people he represented, to return to their entertainers, on this occasion, their hearty thanks for the high honors conferred on them.—When he looked around and saw an amount of intelligence and wealth, such as it had been rarely his fortune to have addressed, although he had addressed many assemblages in various parts of the globe, it needed nothing more to convince him that this fine city was destined to take its place in the front rank, if not as the first city of a mighty nation. (Cheers.) The hospitalities which they had received at the hands of the Executive of this country, as well as the citizens of Quebec, would take a long time to be effaced from their memories. He had observed the other day an article in a local newspaper, the sentiments of which he heartily endorsed, alluding to a pamphlet addressed by a great friend of Dr. Tupper's to Mr. Adderly. The editor made some well timed remarks on the failings of colonists, and particularly their habit of underrating themselves. (Hear, and laughter.) He himself (Col. Gray) gloried in his being able to boast that he was born in America, and he was proud, now standing in the country which gave him birth, to be able to lift his feeble voice to assist in bringing about a union which he fondly hoped would shortly be consummated. The dream of his youth and his manhood had been, that he might one day be a citizen of a great nationality, stretching from Vancouver to Halifax. (Cheers.) This dream he firmly believed would soon become a reality. (Cheers.) He would ask any gentleman at this board, could he divest himself of the feeling that the finger of Providence had directed their labors? When we regarded the times in which we live, and the ominous state of affairs on this continent, who, though he might attempt to foreshadow, could presume to foretel the events which might be enacted on this continent during the next four years. His friends from the sister Provinces had spoken very forcibly of the commercial interests involved in the proposed union. They had said so much on this subject that he, occupying as he had always done during these proceedings the unenviable position of coming in at the heel of the hunt, was precluded from entering upon that subject, more especially as it was but a small colony which he and his colleagues represented. They felt, however, that they could throw a little into the common stock, and that they could be to this Confederacy what Rhode Island was to the United States, which, though of less extent than his own Island, had lately sent four regiments, each of a thousand strong, to help the Union in its great struggle; and in like manner the people of Prince Edward Island could throw in their might too when the time arrived. He would remind them that in prosecuting this plan of union the public men now met in conference in Quebec required something more than such hospitalities as they had partaken of at this magnificent feast. They required the sympathy and co-operation of the people, and could not attain the results they looked for unless the people of their respective Provinces gave them their aid to the utmost, banishing all sectional interests and prejudices, and uniting together as brothers to bring about the desired consummation, which he would say was as desirable on other grounds as from the mere commercial point of view. As the chairman of the Convention of the Maritime Provinces, and on their behalf, he felt authorized to say that there was not a man amongst them who would not promptly come forward to give his substance to the utmost, and to spend the last drop of his blood, rather than that the soil of Canada should be polluted by the hostile foot of the stranger. (Loud cheers.) On this subject, however, he would forbear making any further remarks, as he did not know who might be in the room, and he would not be the last to say anything that could be construed in an offensive sense to any one. He would only add, that with the people of the Maritime Provinces united with the Canadians, as a band of brothers, they might be assured that God would defend his own work.

The next *Dejeuner* or Banquet was at Montreal on the afternoon and evening of the 29th October, the Delegates having arrived there on the previous day, and had been entertained at a Ball, as we mentioned last week. The *Dejeuner* was a very great affair, and larger, we think, than that at Quebec. It was arranged that the public speaking at Montreal should be done by the Opposition, and accordingly one member of such from each Province was selected—Hon. Mr. Archibald, from Nova Scotia—Hon. Mr. Gray from New Brunswick—Hon. Mr. Shea from Newfoundland, and Mr. Whelan from Prince Edward Island.

The Hon. Col. GRAY briefly introduced Mr. Whelan as follows:—

Colonel GRAY, P. E. I., said, we had heard from our friends from the other three Provinces a great deal of the commercial, political, and military element. Now, as his friends had rather transgressed upon the usual time that had been devoted heretofore to these subjects, he proposed to have something said of the social, and asked permission for his friend and co-delegate, (Hon. Mr. Whelan) to respond, as there was none better able or more worthy, as a son of Erin, to give effect to their feelings, in answer to the cordial and appropriate motto with which they had been welcomed; "Cead mille failtha." (Cheers.)

Mr. WHELAN then responded. His Speech is taken from the Toronto *Globe*:—

SPEECH OF THE HON. MR. WHELAN OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN said he was grateful to the gallant Colonel, the Leader of the Government of Prince Edward Island, for the call with which he had been honored and also for the handsome but wholly undeserved terms in which his name had been announced. While any man, no matter how great his ability, might be justly proud of the position in which he was placed, he could not subdue a feeling of embarrassment at the consciousness that he stood in the presence of some of the first men of British America, and before others who had rendered eminent service [illegible] in the four quarters of the globe. [illegible] assured, however, that his embarrassment would receive the generous consideration of many kind friends around him, who would [readil]y forget and forgive in a stran[illegible] errors he might commit, whether, like angels' visits, they should be few and far between, or "thick as leaves in Vallambrosa." He would, however, bear in mind that the best quality of an after-dinner speech was brevity. Speeches, on such an occasion as the present, should be, if possible, like the champagne before them, bright and sparkling, and as soon disposed of (Cheers) Now, his first duty was to thank that distinguished audience, in the name of the people of Prince Edward Island, for the honor conferred upon their representatives in connection with the other delegates, not only for the splendid entertainment before them, but for the cordial and overpowering welcome they had received on their visit to this fair city, the great commercial emporium of Canada, the grandeur of whose busy marts and palatial residences bear testimony to the enterprise, public spirit and refined tastes of her sons. He was well aware that the compliment was not so much to the gentlemen composing the delegation as to the colony which they had the honor to represent. He accepted it in that spirit and thanked their generous entertainers for it. Politicians are generally cunning fellows, and those in the several Maritime Governments showed this quality to great advantage when they appointed members of the Opposition, to which, in Prince Edward Island, he had the honor to belong, but from the cares of which he hoped to be soon relieved—(Laughter)—to aid them in perfecting the great scheme of confederation: because, if the people of the several Provinces should be so unwise as to complain that their liberties and cherished institutions have been taken from them, the Opposition would have to bear the censure as well as those in the Administration. Members of the Government will say, in reply to any complaint, that the gentlemen opposite have been quite as bad as themselves. The sequel, he hoped, however, would prove that confederation would be the means of enlarging our liberties instead of restricting them, and that our noble institutions would be strengthened and consolidated, instead of imperilled, by the proposed alliance. The present was his first visit to Canada. He was so deeply impressed with the greatness of the country in every respect, which so far exceeded his expectations, that he ardently hoped it would not be his last. It was great, he said, in its industrial, commercial and natural resources, in the countless treasures of its vast forests, its inexhaustible mines, its gigantic public works, whose value is estimated by many millions of dollars; in the vast lakes which were small inland seas, and the mighty river which flows past us, being the natural highway to and from the Lower Provinces, inviting an interchange of our commercial relations and an expansion of the resources of them all. It was great, too, for the history which it has bequeathed to all time, and which may now be referred to without disturbing the sensitiveness of the gallant people who, only a little more than 100 years ago, acknowledged the sovereignty of Great Britain. He had read that history, and while in Quebec he did not fail to visit some of the places which were made famous by the marvellous enterprise and heroism of Wolfe. Montmorenci, at which the first dash was made for the conquest of Quebec, was a place of stirring interest which no visitor could pass by. The Falls were not, perhaps, very wonderful in themselves (in being directed to the upper portion of which he was indebted to a most agreeable and intelligent French Canadian girl,) but the historic associations which they recall give them an enduring claim to attention He visited the Cove and walked up the narrow pass which led Wolfe and a few followers to the Plains of Abraham, where a soldier's death closed his conquest of Canada He was delighted to visit in the Governor's Garden the monument to the memory of Wolfe and Montcalm. It was a generous and noble impulse in the Earl of Dalhousie thus to commemorate the names of both heroes, both foemen worthy of the great struggle in which they were engaged, both illustrious in their lives and honoured and lamented in their death: one the idol of the English nation, the other the embodiment of all that is virtuous and chivalrous in the French character. (Cheers.) The names of the two great Generals, thus united and thus commemorated, beautifully symbolized the close union now subsisting between the French and British races in Canada (Cheers.) But of all the attributes of the greatness of Canada, there was one other which he could not overlook It was to be seen in the personal character of the people of Canada, in the large and generous heart which seemed to throb alike from one end of the Province to the other. Unaffected by distinctions of race, nationality or creed, it appeared to feel, and give visible manifestations of the feeling, that it was capacious enough to enfold within its tendrils every section of British America. The only fear was that the caressing, as in the case of the delegates, might be too warmly given, and that they might suffer a most agreeable death from the operation. This was not intended to apply to the fair ladies of Canada, (laughter,) for the delegates being all married men, were, of course, like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion as regards a breach of the marital engagement, for if not so circumstanced they would be as dead as Julius Cæsar long ago. (Laughter.) He would now, with the permission of the chair, offer one or two observations touching the important business which had brought the several delegates to Canada, and in doing so he would so express himself as not to violate the confidence which the Convention seemed to consider so essential to the success of their deliberations. Politicians sometimes take extraordinary liberties with the patience of the public, and perhaps they did this when they resolved upon holding a secret Conference; but it may be, that they had so many dark sins to confess to each other that they imagined it would not be safe to let the public listen to the confession. He would, however, bear testimony to the fact that the confession was a most satisfactory one. Each felt that he was entitled to political absolution for many sins done by his province, and now behold (said he, touching the champagne glass,) how earnestly we are all doing penance. (Laughter.) The Confederation of the Provinces may not follow immediately in the steps of the Conference, but that it will come, or that our condition will become very much worse than it is at present, seems morally certain. Nothing can be worse than to become the prey of a military despotism, not far distant, wherein every vestige of liberty is daily offered as a sacrifice to the Moloch of Ambition, and wherein the ties that were supposed to bind two people of common origin and common language, are now brittle as glass, and an opportunity is desired to cry "havoc and let slip the dogs of war" upon unoffending colonists If we want to avoid such a misfortune the people of British America must become more united than they are at present. The Convention, whose labours have just closed, was the first step in that direction. In the colonies we have been strangers to each other too long, as much so as if we lived under separate sovereignties. We have been jealous and apprehensive of each other: mutually restricting our trade and placing obstacles in the way of our prosperity—not knowing and not respecting each other as we should. In our separate and disjointed condition, we have not been, and never can be, treated with due respect by our powerful foreign neighbours. Even England is concerned for our feeble and defenceless state, and gently chides us for our apparent supineness and indifference. The Confederation, if perfected, will remove that stain, and give all the colonies a national and indivisible character. It will be seen that we are willing to struggle and make sacrifices for our own protection; and then, should an evil day and evil counsels bring a conflict upon us, we may rest assured that the red right arm of Britain will be bared to aid us in repelling aggression. (Loud cheers.) He had only seen, a day or two ago, an able article in the London *Telegraph*—a paper of great influence and ability—in which this view was clearly set forth—that England would be always willing to help us if we first helped ourselves. Alluding to the proposed Confederation, the writer said:—"Firmly believing that the project will be immensely beneficial to the colonies, we are convinced that it will be equally acceptable to the Home Government. As the matter already stands, England is committed to the protection of every acre of her soil, be it on the Indus, the Murray, the St. Lawrence, or the Thames. Doubtless the responsibility is great, doubtless the work is arduous; but the duty exists. The best way, indeed, to lighten it, is to call upon our colonies themselves to take measures for their own defence, assuring them that whenever the odds are too heavily against them, whenever the danger becomes serious, we pledge the British empire to their aid." (Loud cheers.) Mr. Whelan continued—Commercial and pecuniary motives, if no other of a sterner nature prevailed, should certainly teach us to unite. There should be no hostile or restrictive tariffs between the several Provinces—no dissimilar postal regulations—no dissimilarity in our currency and exchange. Our commerce, which now flows into other channels, where we get little thanks for it, would diffuse its enriching streams amongst ourselves, and nothing could possibly prevent us from becoming a great and powerful confederacy. The union proposed by the Conference, in which there were mutual concessions of small sectional claims, and a unanimous desire for conciliation, will not, when its deliberations are more fully known, alarm any man. Large sectional rights and interests are proposed to be preserved. The connexion with the British Crown will not only be unimpaired, but will be strengthened; and for the preservation of those free institutions which we all value so much, and which we hope to transmit to future generations, he thought that there was but one remedy, and that remedy was "union." (Cheers.) But let no man imagine that this much-desired object can be effected at Quebec or Montreal. The great work is but commenced. The halls of the several local Legislatures, the constituencies of each Province in public meetings assembled, and on the hustings, are the places in which the great question must be settled. It will be the duty of the public men [illegible] are now in Canada, to educate the public mind up to the adoption of their views. The task may be a tedious, difficult, and protracted one; but no great measure was ever yet accomplished, or worth much, unless surrounded with difficulties. Deferring reverently to the public opinion of his own Province, he would cheerfully go amongst his people, and explaining it as well as he could, he would ask them to support a measure which he believed will enhance their prosperity. Few and comparatively poor as the population of the island of Prince Edward may be now, its fertile fields and valleys are capable of supporting a population of a million. It was once designated the garden of the St. Lawrence, and it was a valuable fishing station for Canada during the occupation of the French under Montcalm. It still possesses all the qualities of a garden, and its rivers and bays still abound with fish. He desired that those great resources should become as well known now and in the future as they were in bygone days; and regarding the advantages which modern improvements and institutions afforded as auxiliaries to the natural resources of his colony, he was satisfied that she could not fail to become very prosperous and happy under the Confederation. [Loud cheers.]

On the next toast being given—"Our Sister Colonies"—the Hon. Mr. Haviland, of this Island, volunteered the following short speech:—

SPEECH OF COL. HAVILAND.

Col. HAVILAND, in replying to the toast remarked, that as a member of the smallest province of the whole, he would not detain the audience long, at the same time he desired to draw attention to some peculiar facts connected with the present movement. They might recollect that this was not the first time that states had met together to organize a constitution, for in times gone by the states of Holland had met to resist the tyranny of the Spanish government; and the old thirteen states of America had also assembled under the cannon's mouth and the roar of artillery; but the peculiarity of this meeting was that it was held in a time of peace with the approbation, and, he believed, with the sanction of Her Majesty, that the Colonies might throw aside their swaddling-clothes to put on themselves the garb of manhood and hand down to posterity the glorious privileges for which their ancestors contended from age to age in the old country, and which had been brought into these new countries under the protecting shadow of the flag that had braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze. (Hear) Although Prince Edward Island had only 80,000 inhabitants, principally engaged in agriculture, yet small as it was it did not come as a beggar to the Conference doors. Its revenue was certainly not very great, but there was yet a surplus of about £4,000 sterling to the credit of the Province over and above the £36,000 it had spent for the Government last year. Thus it did not come as a pauper but was honestly prepared to do something—all in its power to organize here in America a constitutional monarchy which should be able to spread institutions in which there was the soul of liberty. (Hear, hear) The despotism now prevailing over our border was greater than even that of Russia. The liberty of the press was gone. Liberty in the States was altogether a delusion, a mockery, and a snare. No man there could express an opinion unless it agreed with the opinion of the majority, for the time being; as for the rights of the minority they were not recognized; they did not exist, and the majority rode rough-shod over all (Hear, hear). Well, Prince Edward Island, though it was small, was prepared to take a burthen upon it and share with the other maritime Provinces in contributing towards military defence, (Hear, hear). He believed the day would come when the battle of civil and religious liberty would have to be fought in America, and he felt that it would be fought between Canada and the United States. When that time came Prince Edward Island would be prepared to contribute its quota of men and money in order to aid Canada in defending those free institutions which are so dear to us as British Americans. (Hear, hear) There was a point of importance connected with this subject. There was an iron band wanted to unite the Colonies—the band of the Intercolonial railroad—and that completed, the interior connected with the seaboard, the Colonies would be able to go on hand in hand together in commercial and military undertakings, (Hear hear) Some years ago he had the honor of being in Montreal during the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who would, some day—might that day be distant—rule over this country. Then he was here as a stranger and the maritime provinces were hardly known; it was with the utmost difficulty he could find so much as a newspaper from the Lower Provinces in the reading rooms. Now, however, he felt like belonging to a nation, for he thought ere long we should be a nation with interests no longer distinct, but one people under the same time-honored flag which now floated over us. (Applause)

General Sir Fenwick Williams and Sir Richard McDonnell spoke at the Montreal *Dejeuner*. The sentiments of the latter commanded great attention, as well from the ease and ability with which they were delivered, as from the high position of the speaker. We make room for Sir Richard's speech as one well worthy of perusal:—

SIR RICHARD GRAVES McDONNELL'S SPEECH.

He said, your reception of me has been so very kind and so very cordial, that it almost embarasses me, accustomed as I am to public life, and to the welcome which Her Majesty's subjects in all quarters of the globe accord to those whom they know to be actuated by a loyal sense of duty. I have always found that Her Majesty's subjects are delighted to lend their aid to the representatives of the Queen in carrying out the objects of the Queen, and these objects, I may be permitted to say, are such as will result in advancing the social welfare and increasing commercial prosperity of the colonies. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, in this fair city, which I may term the natural and commercial centre of the Province which has been truly called the brightest jewel in the crown of England,—cheers,—allow me to congratulate you on the progress which everywhere I see around me, since the period of a former visit, which I was fortunate enough to make some years ago. Allow me to express the great pleasure which her Ladyship feels on this her first visit to this city, at finding herself surrounded by familiar faces. She congratulates herself upon the lucky opportunity which enabled her, during the recent visit of the Canadian delegates to the Lower Provinces, to make the acquaintance of so many of your number, that it makes it seem like home to her. His Excellency was very glad that though his present visit to Montreal, was to a certain extent, accidental, it took place at a time when the Delegates from the Provinceover which he had the honor to preside were present. It had afforded him great pleasure to respond to the invitation given him by the Committee, to be present at the entertainment given on this occasion in honor of the Delegates. He was sure that he only expressed the sentiment of the community at large, when he said that whatever might be the opinion as to the subject which gave rise to the meeting of the Delegates, we were all ready to give them the credit of having entered upon the task with great zeal and patriotism. For this, he was sure, the community must always feel grateful to them. Though the Delegates came among us with no authority from the Imperial Parliament, yet they came representing the state of feeling in each of the Provinces. Care had also been taken that the Delegates should represent the feelings of the opposition, which in a country like this, was equally necessary. (Cheers) Therefore, great weight would be attached to whatever propositions those gentlemen might make. At the same time, it must be observed that suggestions, even patriotically made, were not at once to be accepted This was a very critical time.—The whole future of the Provinces would, no doubt, be affected for better or worse, by the decision which the people arrived at on the propositions made to them.—Cheers—Without trenching upon anything he had heard, he did hope when the country decided upon some plan of action, one designed to give greater strength in matters of defence, and increased economy in conducting the government, that it would find some effectual means of carrying out that object which we had all in common.—Cheers.—He believed they would not find it necessary to build up such a union as that which we would like to see, upon a mass of guarantees based upon mutual suspicion, but that if we were to become one nation, they would lay the foundations upon the guarantees of mutual trust and confidence. If the inhabitants of the North American Provinces of Her Majesty were to become a great people he would say that they could only become so by making mutual concessions and reposing in each other mutual confidence. If they began to establish guarantees, where was it to end? Were they to have guarantees for the defence of the British minority in Lower Canada, and of the French minority in Upper Canada? He hoped there was sufficient good feeling and mutual confidence amongst them in these Provinces to enable them to adopt some simple effective mode of union which would give them a good government (Cheers) He must say there was one portion of Her Majesty's subjects in these Provinces—he alluded to the French Canadian portion, with whom his intercourse had given him great satisfaction. He might say that both on the occasion of the previous visit to this Province as well as on the present, he had never met one person of this class who was not actuated by the most friendly and loyal feelings to Her Majesty's government. He believed it was impossible for any stranger like himself to visit this country, and traverse this fragment, as it might be termed, of old France, without feeling deeply interestedin its welfare and future Seperated from the old country, it had not the opportunity of participating in the glories of Old France, but at the same time he did not think the Canadians had been much the losers by not being involved in the political storms which had raged in the old country in the interval. The inhabitants of this Province enjoyed such a measure of social freedom as was not exceeded by any nation on the face of the earth. (Cheers) As an old servant of Her Majesty, he felt proud when he said this. This was the best compliment which could be paid to the excellence of British institutions. (Cheers.) Therefore whatever might be the result of this movement, he hoped it would conduce to the happiness of the French people of Lower Canada; and he believed that it might be effected just as easily by simple as by complicated means. It might or might not be the case that the views proposed by the Delegates would be carried out; but at the same time, whether the whole were carried into effect or nothing, or only a part, he might assure them, both for himself and on the part of his fellow-Governors, that they might rely upon finding in them every disposition to assist them by every means that lay in their power. They, the Governors, would seek to give the fullest development to whatever was proposed, and to further as far as lay in their power the interests and happiness of those over whom for a time they had been appointed to preside. (Cheers) He felt that perhaps he had been touching upon rather difficult ground, but at the same time he thought that the period had arrived when public feeling might be brought to bear upon that in which the public at large were so deeply interested. Hoping that the future of these Provinces might be as glorious as the splendid materials seemed to promise, he would conclude with the sentiment which he observed appended to one of the toasts:—

"Then let us be firm and united.
"One country, one flag for us all.
"United our strength will be freedom,
"Divided we each of us fall." (Loud Cheers.)

The speeches at the *Montreal Banquet* which appeared to be the most effective, and pronounced to be the best, were those from Mr. Gray of New Brunswick, and from Mr. McGee, of Canada.—Mr. Gray had the advantage of speaking at an early hour—while the attention of the audience was still keen, and on the watch for disclosures from the Delegates; but when Mr. McGee rose to speak the company was pretty well tired—the champagne had taken effect in many cases; but every person was clamouring to hear Mr. McGee, and we are sure his great personal pupularity with his constituents of Montreal would have secured him the most respectful hearing at any time and under any circumstances. We give as follows his speech, with Mr. Gray's (of N. B.) and having read them, let the reader form his own judgment of their merits:—

SPEECH OF THE HON MR. GRAY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

Lt Col. the Hon. JOHN H. GRAY, of New Brunswick, rose to respond on behalf of New Brunswick. When the cheering had ceased, Mr. Gray proceeded to say that, being placed in the same position as his honorable friend on the right who had just addressed them, he had to acknowledge with thanks on the part of New Brunswick the kind reception of the toast, and he must say that the embarressment which he naturally felt on rising to address that assembly faded away before the cordiality of their welcome. This was one of the occasions when men rose superior to the cold calculations of interest, and chose the path of honor. At no period in the history of British North America had such a question come before the people. It is not simply, continued Mr. Gray, that we are your guests, received with such unbounded hospitality that no language can express our appreciation of it; but the reason of our being here is that a public question is before us, a public question most momentous to the future defence of the Provinces of British North America—the question of Confederation, not simply a commercial connection, but a political connection, merging our interests, our national character, and our wealth into one common nation. The speaker alluded to the legislatures of these Provinces having in time of need placed their means at the disposal of the Sovereign. The public men of New Brunswick had looked to this connection with great interest and anxiety. Years back the public men and legislature had turned their attention to the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, which, by bringing us closer together, would make us brothers and friends. Yet year by year, from some cause which he must now attribute to accident, had fifteen years passed away, and that object had still eluded their grasp. The hopes of the people of New Brunswick had gradually faded away like the last hues of autumn. They had at last almost turned away their attention from the project, and the legislature last winter directed its attention to another project for the union of the Maritime Provinces. He, the speaker, could not then help some feeling of regret that the great object of their ambition had passed away. But while the representatives of the Lower Provinces were engaged in Conference, continued the speaker, the ministers of your country came down and proposed that we should no longer remain separate, isolated Provinces, but form some union which would perpetuate the great principles of British Constitutional liberty (Cheers) Gentlemen, I need not say to you that the proposition thus made was in entire unison with the cherished principles of our political life, and was warmly welcomed. (Cheers) I need not say that your statesmen placed before us such simple, manly arguments in support of their proposition that we had no hesitation in foregoing the immediate object of our meeting, and in placing these proposals before our respective governments, and our governments had no hesitation in sending us to deliberate on this great question. Mr. Gray proceeded to say that it would not be proper for him to enter into the details of the results which had been arrived at. He believed that some explanation on this head would be given by the Canadian statesmen. The people were entitled to some statement of the sort. (Cheers) I shall therefore, he continued, forego any remarks upon the subject, and it is my purpose to call your attention for a few moments to the resources and position of the Province of New Brunswick, that you, the people of Canada, may see that we do not come to you as supplicants, but as men confident of our resources, and while we admit the greatness of your resources, believing that we possess something that would add to your importance and make you take a higher position among the nations. I am impressed with the rapidity of your progress. Some ten years ago, in the same month of the year, I had the pleasure of being in this city on a public mission, and the progress made in these ten years exceeds what could have been pictured by the liveliest imagination. I see noble streets where there were fields and morasses. It is impossible for any man not to see that during the last fifteen years the city in which we are now receiving your hospitality has been rapidly taking its place among the first Commercial Capitals of America. (Cheers) I now beg to call your attention to the resources of our Province. I am afraid you have not paid much attention to us, to the resources and the business of our Colonies. Some may know something about them, having visited them. But your attention, for the most part, has been turned in other directions. But I may say that the amount of capital and the resources that will be brought into this union by the Maritime Provinces will form no inconsiderable element in its prosperity. (Cheers) Taking the official returns of 1863, it appears that the collective revenue of the four Maritime Provinces was two and a half million dollars. I may mention another circumstance—that the imports and exports of these four Provinces during the last year have amounted to forty-two millions dollars Now yours, I think, amount to 80 or 90 million dollars, so that we approach to one-half the united imports and exports of Canada. Taking the figures of the census of 1857 and 1861, and allowing for the natural increase since these dates I think you may put down our joint population, at the close of the present year, at somewhere about 900,000. The shipping amounted to 645,530 tons. Great as is the trade you possess, it must be observed that for five or six months of the year you are without access to one mile of sea coast, unless you pass through the territory of your neighbor. If a merchant of Canada desires, during these five or six months, to send the profits of his labor home to England, it must pass through foreign territory. I will not call it hostile, for I hope it is friendly. (Cheers) This is a condition inconsistent with the dignity of any country that desires to maintain its proper position. What we propose to you is this, add your Marine of Canada to ours, and the united Marine of Canada and the Maritime Provinces will place the country in the position of the fourth Maritime power in the world, England, France and the United States alone being superior. The Maritime Provinces alone cannot claim this position; Canada alone cannot claim it. I cannot forget that the inhabitants of this country are sprung from the most enterprising and energetic people in the world. I cannot forget that this country has a history of its own (Cheers.) I turn back the pages of history, and I find deeds recorded which need not make a Canadian ashamed before any country in the world. The speaker proceeded to refer to the achievements of Canadians on the Plains of Abraham and elsewhere. There is one other observation which I have to make; you must excuse me if I occupy more of your time than I ought (Cheers) There are many men who believe that a mere commercial union would accomplish the object we wish to attain, but I think that to men of sense it must be evident that this would not effect what we wish. The speaker referred to the necessity of one Province imposing duties which might be unpleasant to the others, for the purpose of meeting the interest accruing on debts incurred for public works, that the character of the country might not be stained by repudiation. You will permit me to express my opinion that we want something more than a commercial union, that we want a national union, that a man may not be ashamed to point to the country from which he comes, but may have pride in acknowledging it. (Cheers) I believe that the proudest position we can hold is that of Englishmen, living under a common Sovereign, and worthy of the great race whence we are sprung, and while we perpetuate the Constitutional principles of the country from which we come, we shall follow a course calculated to do honor to our own country. (Cheers.) I have only one more remark to make, and that is upon the national defences of our coutry. I ask you to bear in mind at this moment what each man contributes to the defence of the country, and I ask you to turn to any other country in the world, to any portion of Europe, or to turn to the United States, and to tell me in what country people contribute less than you do here to the defence of your hearths and your homes? (Cheers) The speaker referred to those whose sons had joined the ranks of the army, and acquitted themselves bravely. I hold that we should be unworthy of the heritage of our race, if when the time is come for us to do something for ourselves, we do not show that we are prepared to do it. Without violating the rules of secrecy as to the deliberations of the conference, I may say that the Provinces if united, will devote all their means if called upon for the maintenance of their liberties. (Cheers) You will permit me to refer to the pleasure I enjoyed this morning in having an opportunity to visit the various armories of this city. It was a source of gratification to find taht you had the nucleus around which you would rally in case of difficulty and danger. I have one more word to say. When you come into this union, we ask you with all sincerity that the first step you take be to put us in a position to have access to you at all times, and that you may have access to us at all times of the year. (Loud cheers.) I refer to that undertaking sanctioned by the expression of our public opinion, the construction of that great work which will make us brethren. We ask you to aid us by the expression of your public opinion; to tell your statesmen that we are to be placed in a position that will keep us no longer strangers to each other, but enable us to know each other. (Cheers) This question of union has been one of deep import and of deep interest. I call upon you, Canadians, in the presence of your beautiful hills, I call upon you in the presence of your own great river, I call upon you in the presence of that stupendous work which spans your river and testifies your onward march. I call upon you by the remembrance of the past, the spirit of the present, and the hopes of the future, to rally round that great achievement which will tend to promote your future prosperity and the happiness of your people. (Loud cheers)

SPEECH OF HON. MR. McGEE.

Hon. Mr. McGEE then rose, and was greeted with hearty cheers, which lasted some seconds. He said he had no intention of, at this late hour, after their long sitting this afternoon, to detain them. When they were in the Lower Provinces their hospitable entertainers, many of whom he was glad to see here to-night, on all occasions were pleased to hear Canadians speak and to listen themselves. He thought, as far as he (Mr. McGee) was concerned, he would best discharge his duty in showing himself a good host by being a good listener. (Cheers) However, as the earliest Canadian politician who made the acquaintance of some of the gentlemen now here, as one who had been in a small way a pioneer of this gathering of the British North American family, he could not, as the only other member for Montreal present at the moment who had not spoken, allow the meeting to separate without giving his hearty endorsement to every word of welcome from the chair, and by various speakers on this occasion. (Cheers) They were welcome to Canada on their own account as accomplished gentlemen, and of their accomplishments and powers the meeting had this evening a specimen. (Cheers) They were still more welcome to Canada on account of the colonies of Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, and the communities there which they represented. (Applause) As far as he was concerned, he would make no mystery of what brought them here, or of the business with which they were engaged. They were doubly welcome to his mind, as one of the representatives of the first city in British North America, for the work of union in which they were now engaged. (Loud cheers) He was told that some of the citizens had often asked why this Conference at Quebec sat with closed doors? why all this mystery? why this gathering together from both ends of British America, and of all the leading statesmen? Why were several Governors and Lieut. Governors of the Provinces eastward deprived of the benefit and advice of their responsible advisers? Why should they be all in a council chamber in Quebec counselling together? Parties said they elected those gentlemen to administer the government and laws as they existed, and not to frame a new constitution. Why, it was asked, had those gentlemen come here to sketch out, as was said, lines of a new constitution? If asked the reason why, he would give the reason in one word, the same which the visitor to St. Paul's was called upon to read on searching for the monument of Sir Christopher Wren. (circumspice) look around. (Cheers.) Look around and they would see the reasons for this gathering. Look at the valleys of Virginia, the uplands of Georgia; look around in this age of earthquakes and political perturbation in North America; look at the men in these Provinces, who were called its statesmen, whom Great Britain had warned solemnly and repeatedly through the press, by official notifications, and by Parliament, that if the Canadians did not provide adequately for the exigencies of their present new condition, England would hold herself blameless for the consequences. Why, she had given us warning that things could not go on in future as in the past. (Loud cheers) If they wished to see reasons for the present Conference, look across the border and they would find reasons as thick as blackberries why they should go where they did, and engage in the work which had for some time occupied them. (Loud applause.) It was necessary that they should have with them the cordial and united support of public opinion and the public voice of the great city of Montreal. He trusted they would have the support of the majority of all interested people in Canada, of whatever origin, creed or race. This was not a time for creeds or origins or races, but a time either to save or to ruin British North America. If its fate were not decided within this decade in one sense, assuredly it would be in another. If the thirty-three delegates had presumed to go into a chamber in Quebec to sketch an outline to be submitted to the Imperial Government, and to the Imperial Parliament, before which submission it was not right it should be submitted in any kind of detail to the people of these Provinces; if they had gone into that room in time of profound peace to sketch a new basis of a constitution for these Provinces, they found their justification in circumstances of the peculiar position in which British American colonies stood towards republican North America, and in intonations official and unofficial respecting our duties as to self-defence conveyed to us by the last British steamer from the most undoubted sources, from the seat of government of the empire itself. (Cheers) The Conference had not acted in an empirical spirit; they had not gone into the chamber to invent any new system of government; but had entered it with a reverent spirit to consult the oracles of the history of their race; they had gone there to build, if they built at all, on an old foundation. (Loud cheers.) They desired not to build an edifice with stucco front and lath and plaster continuation, but a constitutional edifice upon a basis of solid British masonry, solid as the foundation of the Eddystone lighthouse, which would beat the whole force of the tempest and the waves, and the corroding political atmosphere of the new world, and which they hoped would stand for ages a vindication of the solidity of their institutions and of the legitimacy of their origin. (Loud cheers) In their (the British North American) political architecture, he trusted they would vindicate the honor of the races from which they sprung—the warlike Norman, the Saxon, the Celt, the Norseman, the homely, vigorous, fearless Scandinavian, and all the races that go to make up the great concrete called the British Empire. (Hear, hear, and cheers) He trusted that the British North American political architecture would not be a plagiarism of republicanism, and not fulfil the predictions so freely showered upon them by some of the New York journals that the proposed union would be simply democracy in disguise; but that we should not only acknowledge the monarchial principle, but construct an edifice with British connection as the corner-stone, and freedom as the main walls of the structure, and make the people feel their freedom was connected with a due respect for authority and for the throne, as well as for those who represented here authority and the throne. (Renewed cheers) In answer to the well-wishing editor of the New York *Albion*, who had cautioned Canadians against the premature rejoicings over the seeming success to which they had arrived, as they had done with regard to the laying of the Atlantic telegraph cable a few years ago, he (Mr. McGee) would venture to assure the editors that they had not been experimenting and sounding out of their depths, as those who laid the cable did. (Laughter and applause.) The members of the conference had not been together so far without having a fair indication of what each other's sentiments and opinions were. They wanted the electrical stimulus from England, having only to touch the *Magna Charta* and the *bill of rights* to receive all the inspiration or impulse they wanted in their present labours. (Cheers.) So long as they had that electrical inspiration in the libraries at their sides they would always know what was thought in England of the work they were doing in Quebec. (Cheers.) And, addressing the delegates from the sister provinces, in going back to their constituents, he said to them, not as a Canadian or as a Lower Canadian, for he had always said the province line had been abolished before he came to Canada, and if it was never drawn again till he drew it, either socially or politically, or any other way, it would remain undrawn long enough. He said to them not simply as a citizen or a representative of Montreal, or as an inhabitant of Canada, but as one who heartily desired, in his humble way, to bring about this very spectacle which they to-night witnessed, that they could say fearlessly and unreservedly on the part of Canada that if they, he firmly believed, sought this alliance, not from mercenary motives, but from a sentiment of common defence; if they came into the Union, as he thought they would, well dowered and in such a manner as no one of the partners to it could ever upbraid them with their having come in an insubordinate position, they could say that if Canada desired this Union, which he believed she did, although the public mind of the country was not yet fully informed upon it, he went in for no such small or mercenary purpose. (Cheers.) They could say for the public intelligence of Canada, and especially for the city of Montreal, which in some respects was the heart and bone of the community of Canada—that we were year by year becoming more enlarged and liberalized in our views; that we were becoming less angry and hostile as to sects and classes; that we were becoming better friends, and that men agreed that we could go where we liked on Sunday, or nowhere at all if we liked that better, and that, at all events, on week days, in our own business and social relations, we bore ourselves as we pleased, not cutting each other's throats for the love of God. (Laughter and loud cheers) They could say that in Canada religious bigotry was at a discount, and if they wished him he could put his finger and show them where that bigotry had withered on its stalk, and where once it had made a great show of power and influence was now so poor as none to do it reverence. (Cheers.) Bigots of all kinds, Catholics as well as Protestant, bigots of all classes on all sides, and bigots of race who believed that no good could come out of the Nazareth of any other origin but their own, their day of small things, God knew how small, had passed in Canada, where every man was willing to respect every other man's convictions, and we had at last reached the degree of safe government, and shown ourselves to be in the best sense civil and religious freemen fit for self-government, by allowing every man of every creed and sect and race to manage his own affairs in his own way, and to wash his own dirty linen in his own back yard, so that he need not trouble his neighbors or disturb the peace of the community. (Cheers.) He thought they might say we had all that in Canada, religious combined with political liberty. (Renewed cheering) He was sorry they had been so long in that political laboratory at Quebec that they would not have time before the necessities of the season compelled them to return to their homes, to see the people that went to make up this great province. Great in resources, great in number, but greater still in promise, it seemed to give that promise here in British North America we should establish that freedom—not freedom like the apples of Sodom, fair without but within rottenness and hollowness—but the freedom that gave every man his own private and personal rights consistent with the private and personal rights of others. (Cheers.) They might say to their constituents that if Canada went into this union she went into it mainly with a view to promote the common prosperity, secure the common safety, and to establish the common liberties of all British North America. (Loud and long continued applause.)

The next *Dejeuner* or Banquet was given in the Picture Gallery of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa, on the 1st of November, by the Contractors of that immense work. It was in most respects like the previous Banquets, not so numerously attended perhaps—Ottawa being a very young city,—but it had this additional feature, the ladies were allowed to participate in the Banquet; in the other places they were not. The toasts were the same in all places. The one which referred to the Delegates, was, on the part of Nova Scotia, replied to by Mr. Attorney General Henry; for New Brunswick, by Mr. Attorney General Johnston; and for Prince Edward Island, by Hon. Mr. Coles. The Newfoundland Delegates were not present. We insert below the speech delivered by Mr. Coles:—

HON. MR. COLES'S SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. COLES responded for Prince Edward Island. He said the reception given to the delegates in this city, last night and to-day, went beyond his expectations. He had thought the same at Quebec, but on coming to Montreal and Ottawa, his admiration of the good-feeling and hospitality of the people of Canada had been still further increased. (Cheers.) He stood here in a different position from the gentlemen from the other Provinces, who had just addressed them, both of whom were members of their respective Governments, while he (Mr. Coles) happened to be one of the Opposition. They were aware that the Oppositions of all the Provinces had entered into the delegation to assist in carrying out the views of their respective Governments. Generally, when an Opposition joined in carrying out the views of a Government, they were looked upon with suspicion by their constituents. But the present case was one which stood entirely by itself, and he claimed that in going for federation the Government of Prince Edward Island were carrying out his views—views which he had entertained for many years. (Cheers.) In former times he had found many opposed to his sentiments on this question. It was the same as in the case of a proposed matrimonial union, when the friends of the family were very apt to raise objections on the grounds of desparity in wealth, standing, &c.; but in spite of these objections they had gone to work, and for the last two months—first at Charlottetown, and then at Quebec—they had been trying to draw up the marriage settlement—(cheers)—and he had to announce to them that they had succeeded in framing a marriage settlement which, though in some respects not what some of them might have wished, he hoped would, taken as a whole, give satisfaction to the entire family. (Cheers) The marriage ceremony had yet to be performed. When that took place he hoped the families thereby allied would not be such strangers to each other as they had been in the past, and that the people of Canada would more frequently visit the people of the Lower Provinces, who should be happy to return the compliment. (Cheers.) Mr. Coles went on to speak of the advantages of Prince Edward Island as a delightful summer residence, and of its various resources—particularly the inexhaustible treasury it had in the fisheries of its waters. At present hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of fish were taken from their waters by the American fishermen. He trusted that soon Canada would take that fish for the consumption of her inhabitants, and send her fishermen to catch them. He thought they had reason to congratulate themselves on the result of the labors of the conference. That thirty-three men, representing the various political opinions of six different Provinces, could have assembled and so amalgamated their opinions as to agree upon a constitution suited for that great confederation, was something, he believed, such as the world had never seen before, and showed that the delegates were worthy of the position they held.—(Cheers) He said this although there was no man more disappointed than himself with respect to some parts of that constitution, but by mutual concession they had arrived at a result which they could all agree in submitting to the people, for he held that it must be submitted to the people. They could not force it on the people; they must endeavor to show them that it was for their benefit and thus induce them to accept it. (Cheers.)

The Hon. Col. GRAY, of Prince Edward Island, before the company separated at the Dejeuner in the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa, asked them to fill their glasses. It was not his intention to detain them with a speech, as he saw that their fair companions were already looking forward with an agreeable anticipation to a more congenial task, one better suited to their capacities, although he would not say to their understandings. (Cheers) The delegates had come to this city as strangers, and it was now his duty as chairman of the convention of the maritime provinces to ask them to join in drinking a bumper to the health of their hospitable entertainers. (Cheers) They had been much delighted to-day with what they had seen. Nature and art had combined to render this fair city peculiarly attractive, and as regarded this superb structure in which they were now assembled and which not only rivalled the Tuileries of Paris, but in his opinion even the houses of Parliament on the Thames. (Cheers) They all agreed that it was but a fit and proper building for the purposes to which it was to be donated, one in which should sit the representatives of a free people, who soon would have their territory washed by the Atlantic at Halifax and by the Pacific at Vancouver. (Cheers) It needed no prophet to foretell that the day was coming when they would take their place among the first nations of the world. (Cheers) He asked them to join him in drinking the health of their worthy hosts, the Contractors for these public buildings. (Cheers.)

Mr. CLARK (one of the Contractors) briefly responded.

The Ball at Ottawa on the evening of the same day, (1st Nov.) closed the festivities at that place. This Ball was generally pronounced to be the most agreeable and plesant one of all.

The Delegates started on the following day for Toronto by special train, under the personal care of the Managing Director, Mr. Brydges. At Belleville, there was a Review of the of the Volunteers in honour of them—an Address from the Corporation, and some hasty refreshments. At Kingston there was another Address, and a sumptuous Dinner ordered by Mr. Brydges. At Cobourg, the place of residence of the Solicitor General of Upper Canada, the Train arrived after dark, where the Mayor and some of the Corporation of Toronto had come to meet the Delegates. There was an illumination of the City of Cobourg—a torch-light procession—an address from the Corporation, and more festivities at the residence of Mr. Cockburn, Solicitor General. After a delay of more than an hour, the Train again started for Toronto, and arrived there about half past ten o'clock. An Address from the City authorities was immediately read and replied to at the Railway station—a torchlight procession of very great length, accompanied by at least five thousand people, attended the Delegation party to the Queen's Hotel, where every arrangement had been completed for their reception. Short speeches were made to the populace from the balcony of the Queen's Hotel by the Prov. Secretary of Nova Scotia, by the Secretary of New Brunswick, by Hon. George Brown and by Mr. Whelan.

The forenoon of the next day was spent in visiting some of the principal institutions of learning in Toronto—the College of Upper Canada, the University—one of the handsomest buildings in America, and the unrivalled Normal School, at which institutions addresses were presented to the Delegates by the Alumni, and suitably replied to. Osgood Hall, the magnificent seat of the Courts of Law, was also visited, and elicited the most unqualified admiration of the visitors. The principal streets of the City were gaily decorated with flags during the day.

The greatest of all the Banquets was held in the afternoon of the same day at the Music Hall in Toronto. About 350 persons sat down to the same description of feasting as in the other Cities—ladies were only admitted to the galleries and side seats as visitors. An admirable String Band furnished music, and the toasts were the same as at the other places. The Mayor of the City presided. In answer to the Delegation Toast, the Hon. Mr. McCully, Leader of the Opposition in Nova Scotia, spoke in behalf of that Province; Hon. Mr Fisher, lately Attorney General in New Brunswick, replied for his province; Hon. Mr. Shea spoke on behalf of Newfoundland; and Hon. Mr. Palmer rose and spoke as follows on behalf of Prince Edward Island:—

The Hon. EDW. PALMER, Attorney General of Prince Edward Island, rose on behalf of that Colony to reply to the toast. He was well received on rising. He begged the company, on behalf of himself and his colleagues who there represented it, to accept his acknowlegments for the very flattering manner in which the health of the delegated gentlemen had been proposed and received by the Assemby; and proceeded to say:—The Island from which I came is but a small country, and it requires perhaps little to be said in its behalf; and it is fortunate it is so, as the task has fallen upon one so incapable of doing it. But notwithstanding I shall say a few words, and in speaking of the Island, I am at first reminded of a very facetious remark of a gentleman whom I trust you all know—and that is no other than Mr. D'Arcy McGee—when speaking of Prince Edward Island. "Now," this witty gentleman said, "don't you be too boastful about your little island; don't let us hear so much about it, or we will send down a little tug boat and draw you up into one of our lakes, where we will leave you to take care of yourselves." (Laughter.) Perhaps if this did happen—if you did bring our little island here, we would not have much reason in