

*If we do not take advantage of the time, if we show ourselves unequal to the occasion, it may never return, and we shall hereafter bitterly and unavailingly regret having failed to embrace the happy opportunity now offered of founding a great nation under the fostering care of Great Britain, and our Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria.*

- Sir John A. MacDonald, during the Confederation Debates

*As fragments, we shall be lost; but let us be united and we shall be as a rock.*

- Thomas D'Arcy McGee

*Comparing Confederation to a piece of cloth, it is a weak and poorly planned piece of material. ... Is union strong when a wise man, doing steady business, is tricked into joining a gambler?*

- Joseph Howe (Nova Scotia)

*If we desire to obtain England's support for our defence, we must help ourselves. When we are united, the enemy will know that if he attacks any province he will have to deal with the combined forces of the Empire.*

- Georges-Étienne Cartier

*My friends, a glorious era lies before us: we are entering Confederation. Let it not frighten you! After all, it is nothing but the realization of a plan designed by the first European to set foot in Canada: Jacques Cartier. Would Lower Canada want to limit the influence of the French race to the narrow confines of our province?*

- Georges-Étienne Cartier, speech in Montréal, 1866

*The Union of the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia, under the new Constitution, takes effect today ... The Constitution of 1867 will be famous in the historical annals of Upper Canada, not only because it brought two flourishing maritime states into alliance with the Canadas and opened up new markets for our products, and a direct railway route to the Atlantic through British territory, but because it relieved the inhabitants of Western Canada from a system of injustice and demoralization under which they had suffered for a long series of years.*

- George Brown, July 1, 1867