

arms, where Irish blood has not been freely spilled, and where Irish valor has not contributed to win the day? The Irishmen in the ranks have ever been true to their trust. They bore the British flag in triumph against the marshals of France. At Waterloo, they upheld it for Wellington against the splendid array which Napoleon mustered in person, and yet what is the state of Ireland to-day? Why, the fertile soil of Ireland, teeming with abundance, is made to support foreign landlords, absentees, who squander abroad the wealth which Ireland yields, and thousands of her sons and fair daughters have to come to America, where they can have all the safeguards to industry and enterprise.

Every Novascotian can survey his country with patriotic pride; he may sit in her councils, an equal among equals, and no man who represents her people should surrender their rights. If he does so he is already dead to the noble impulses which can alone preserve peace and liberty. The protracted discussion carried on in this House, and the angry feelings which too often characterized it, only fill the country with apprehension, and impede the progress of public business. A storm which sweeps the ocean and drives the vessel before its fury, makes the mariner look more closely to his means of safety, and a political storm which threatens to disturb the constitution of a country, only brings about a new impulse as to the great elementary principles upon which the fabric rests. Now, as regards the petitions that have come from the country, they have not met with that cordial reception which they are entitled to. It has been said that they were signed by men, women and children, and were got up by a political opposition. Now, sir, as regards the petitions that came from North Hants, I beg to say from my own personal knowledge of the names attached to them that they were not signed by women and children, but were signed by Conservatives and Liberals (so called); men that know their duty both to themselves and their country, and would not be backward in speaking out for the protection of their birth right, if called upon to do so. General Harrison, when about to give his vote on a great question, made a noble reply to a friend, who told him he would ruin himself by the vote which he proposed to give, he exclaimed, "It is better to ruin myself than to destroy the constitution of my country."

In a free government there must always be divisions and parties; and there should be,—because eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and nothing so stimulates vigilance as the conflicting opinions of parties. But we should ever remember that the claims of our country stand far above the claims of party. Why does a patriot await the result with suspended animation and pale cheek? Because upon the issue hangs the fate of his country. If victory light upon his standard, his altar and his fire-side are safe. Now, sir, with our fertile soil, our noble streams, our mineral wealth, large seaboard for navigation and shipbuilding—our population intelligent, enterprising, and religious,—these will enable us to advance with a steady and sure march in civilization. And I am for that sort of industry which spreads wealth among the laboring classes, and elevates them gradually in the scale. I believe in a firm protection of the rights of the weak, whenso-

ever they are in danger by the power of the strong; and wherever you find Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen, you will find that they carry with them the high qualities of their race, which have led the way in civilization, by spreading the great principle of freedom—freedom in religion and freedom in government—over the world. Their prosperity has been brought about by an overruling Providence. There are many who look more to the creature than to the Creator; they trust to their own strength instead of looking to Him who governs the affairs of men; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, it is also probable that an empire cannot rise without His aid. May the light of liberty which now shines over our land long remain to gladden generations yet unborn! May the flag that floats over every part of British territory, and catches the eye of the navigator returning from every country, which is borne by our ships upon all the waters of the globe, and which is known and honored as the flag that is associated with all the glories of our past history, let its folds glitter before the eyes of mankind as the sign of hope and universal freedom.

I have thus expressed a few of my thoughts on this important subject now under consideration, and if the time has come when all independence of public opinion must be sacrificed at the shrine of power, when the people will sustain no man who dares to be candid, then, sir, I desire to have no participation in the administration of public affairs. I can be much happier and much more profitably employed in giving my attention to humbler duties. The right for the people to decide this question for themselves, is one of those great political rights of which no one should desire to deprive them; and I cannot consent, for one single moment, to abandon any part of their claims. I hope there is yet independent spirit in this house, that we shall not be guilty of so great an outrage as that proposed. Those who concur in passing Confederation at the present time, will take upon themselves an awful responsibility; a responsibility for which their constituents will call them to a strict account. This resolution may pass, but if it does, those who vote for it will lose the confidence, and the judgment and good sense of a very large majority of the people. I see that party training is going on; proscriptive spirit is rising; every appeal that can be made to human passions is urged, and names not of the most pleasing kind are freely bestowed upon those who have the firmness to oppose a change in the constitution. Sir, names can never effect principles or change position. Ingenuity may coin them, and effrontery apply them, but the actual relations of life remain the same,—therefore let us be faithful to our great trust.—From the battlefields of all the earth upon which liberty has set up her standard, there comes to us the cry "be faithful;" from the crumbled senate halls of nations for ever passed away, there comes to us an imploring appeal to be faithful to those who put their confidence in us. But, if Confederation must pass by a majority in the House, without the consent of a majority of the people of this country, then I say to my constituents, and also to the country at large, "thou canst not say I did it."