

they had better take that than none at all. He could have no confidence in any measure of union, brought down by the present Government. How could it be expected that any man could, when the Government had no confidence themselves in union. At one time they were found denouncing the scheme as destructive to the best interests of the country, and declaring, both in their speeches and addresses, that New Brunswick desired no closer union with Canada than it had at present, and yet they were willing not only to adopt union, but to leave the details entirely in the hands of the Imperial Government. It was desirable, he thought, that a change in the present condition of the people of the Province should take place. It was said that Canada was deep in debt, and was bankrupt, and that it desired union with this Province to help it out of its difficulties. But he entertained a very different opinion. He had travelled through Canada, and he knew the extent of its resources; and he was of opinion that to be united to such a country could do no harm to a Province like New Brunswick. Then, again, it was said that all the advantages of union would be on the side of Canada. If Canada was to be so vastly more benefited by union, as some people said, than this Province would be, let those who hold that opinion go there and live. There would be no difficulty about that. He would quote some remarks of a gentleman, Mr. Derby, who had drawn up a report for the United States Government on the Reciprocity Treaty, concerning this poverty-stricken country, and they would show what opinions an intelligent writer held of the resources of Canada; then let them cry out about its being poverty-pinched:

"Those persons who are continually trying to depreciate Canada, and create a prejudice against any union with that colony, should read carefully the Report lately prepared by Mr. Derby at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington. He traces the progress Canada has made in material wealth, and in all the elements that constitute material greatness. He says:—'From 1851 to 1861 the population of Canada increased more rapidly than the population of the Union. . . . In the fifteen years from 1851 to 1865, the whole exports and imports of Canada rose from \$35,000,000 to \$37,000,000. Her revenue rose also from \$3,500,000 to \$10,000,000. Between 1851 and 1861 her improved land increased from 7,307,950 acres to 10,854,854, or forty-nine per cent.; the value of the same from \$263,616,000 to \$466,675,780. The wheat crop, which exceeds that of Illinois, and of each of our States, rose from 15,755,493 bushels to 27,474,779, or seventy-eight per cent. The oat crop, larger than that of New York, the leading State of our Union, rose from 20,369,247 bushels to 38,772,170, or ninety-one per cent. During the same period the value of lumber rose from an average of \$7 to \$10 per M. And in the interval between 1851 and 1863 her export of lumber rose from \$5,085,628, of which but twenty per cent. reached the United States, to a total of \$12,264,178. . . . From 1851 to 1861 she has increased her miles of Railway from twelve to nineteen hundred; she has increased her wheat and oat crop, her wool, the value of her forests, and wealth more than we have, al-

though she is naturally inferior in climate, soil and position."

Here was the clear evidence of a gentleman every way competent to judge as to the progress, resources, and the value and extent of the trade of Canada. It was evidence that could not be disputed. It was most desirable that such statements as that he had read should go forth to the people of the Province. It would help them to refute those who repeated the assertion that Canada was a poverty-stricken country. He would refer on this point not only to the evidence of Mr. Derby; he would read the testimony of another witness to the value and the great resources of that country:

"Hitherto, in common with most of our countrymen, as I suppose, I have thought Canada, or, to speak more accurately, British America, a mere strip lying north of the United States, easily detachable from the parent state, but incapable of sustaining itself, and therefore ultimately, nay, right soon, to be taken on by the Federal Union, without materially changing or affecting its own condition or development. I have dropped the opinion as a national conceit. I see in British North America, stretching as it does across the Continent, from the shores of Labrador and Newfoundland to the Pacific, and occupying a considerable belt of the temperate zone, traversed equally with the United States by the lakes, and enjoying the magnificent shores of the St. Lawrence, with its thousands of islands in the river and the gulf, a region grand enough for the seat of a great Empire.

"In its wheat fields in the West, its broad ranges of the chase at the North, its inexhaustible lumber lands—the vast extensive now remaining on the Globe—is its invaluable fisheries, and its yet undisturbed mineral deposits, I see the elements of wealth. I find its inhabitants vigorous, hardy, energetic, perfected by the Protestant religion and British constitutional liberty. I find them jealous of the United States and of Great Britain, as they ought to be; and, therefore, when I look at their extent and resources, I know they can neither be conquered by the former nor permanently held by the latter. They will be independent, as they are already self-maintaining. Having happily escaped the curse of slavery, they will never submit themselves to the domination of slaveholders, which prevails in, and determines the character of, the United States. They will be a Russia in the United States, which to them will be France and England. But they will be a Russia civilized and Protestant, a Russia that will be a very different Russia from that which fills all Southern Europe with terror, and by reason of that superiority, they will be the more terrible to the dwellers in the southern latitudes.

"The policy of the United States is to propitiate and secure the alliance of Canada while it is yet young and incertain of its future. But on the other hand, the policy which the United States actually pursues is the infatuated one of rejecting and spurning vigorous, perennial, and ever-growing Canada, while seeking to establish feeble states out of decaying Spanish Provinces on the coast and in the islands of the Gulf of Mexico.

"I shall not live to see it, but the man is already born who will see the United States mourn over this stupendous folly,

which is only preparing the way for ultimate danger and downfall. All southern political states must act, though many times they rise again with diminished splendor. But those which illuminate the pole remain forever shining, forever increasing in splendor."

Here was the opinion of a very eminent statesman, Mr. Seward, and it was very strong and important evidence that Canada was not the poverty struck place the opponents of the scheme endeavored to make out. For his part he thought it was not the opinion of the Province that a closer union with such a country was not desirable. He believed the people of the Province did desire a closer union, and he was perfectly prepared to test that opinion by running another election. (Attorney General.—The hon. member had no means of knowing the mind of the Province.) Well, he was perfectly willing to run an election and try it that way, and he was prepared to find that a great change of feeling had taken place in the country, not only on the question of union, but with regard to the Government. As there was undoubtedly a growing feeling on confederation in the country, and as the feeling was almost unanimous in the House in favor of union, if it was necessary an address, embodying that opinion, could be put in the hands of the Government, and calling on them to dissolve the House and give the people an opportunity to give practical expression to their views at the polls. And, if necessary, a despatch could be got up showing a very great change of feeling had taken place since last March, with regard to the Government. No act of the Attorney General would redound more to his credit, and give more satisfaction than to let the people have an opportunity to show the change of feeling on the question of confederation. He would be loud and extolled through the Province as a patriotic man.

(Attorney General.—At what time did he want the election to take place?) The sooner the better for the interests of the country. It was necessary, in order to settle the question that something should be done immediately.

He would now refer to military matters, and he must say they were in a most unsatisfactory state. He had directed a letter to His Excellency on the subject of defence in the County of Carleton, for he felt that it would not have been doing himself and his colleagues justice. They would not have done their duty if they had not reported to His Excellency on the defenceless state of these important points, Woodstock, Cornwall and Richmond. He thought it was high time to look to their defence when the Governor and the Attorney General were travelling night and day about the Province, and terrifying the country. If there was no cause of alarm, what occasion was there to take such an extraordinary course? He had received from His Excellency a reply to his communication, and he saw something in it which he did not approve of. He did not care how high in position the individual was who took such a course with him, he would not submit to it. He would read the letter he had received from His Excellency, and he should certainly reply to it publicly. His colleagues and himself had not done any act they were not authorized to do, in having communicated to His Excellency on the defenceless