

we should prepare for war, and I believe that one of the best preparations is that of uniting ourselves to meet any contingency.

But it has been said, will union give us one soldier more? It may not; but it will place our military resources under one head, and the force of the whole union could be concentrated and moved with a celerity and in bodies which could not take place if we remain isolated. It has been said that our men, in case of war, will be required in Canada to defend its exposed frontier. It seems to me, however, that the reverse would be the case, and I agree with the member for South Colchester, that in the contingency of war, the maritime colonies would most probably be the first point of attack. This was the case in the time of the old French war; it was not until Louisburg had fallen that the campaign against Canada had commenced, and this would most probably be the case again. I may refer, in connection with this subject, to the unanimous resolution of this house to place the entire militia of the province at the disposal of the province of New Brunswick at the period when the frontier of the latter was threatened by the State of Maine. Had there been an union of the colonies it would not have been necessary to await the action of the legislature, the central power would at once have detailed to the threatened point whatever number of men was required for defence.

Again, Union in my mind means a closer connection with England. We see this from the tone of the public journals, from the speeches in Parliament, and more particularly from the important despatch of Mr. Cardwell which has been so widely circulated. We could not please the British Government or people better, we could not more readily induce them to assist us, as they promise to do, by the whole resources of the mother country, than by adopting the scheme of the union. But it has been asserted that we need not trouble ourselves about Canada for the power of England will always protect us in Nova Scotia. Well, suppose we admit this, would we be so pusillanimous as to act upon it? I hardly think any honorable gentleman or his constituents would recommend the adoption of such a course. It appears to me that for weal or for woe these colonies are and must be bound together. Again, Union will bring with it large commercial advantages, by breaking down hostile tariffs and introducing free trade and manufactures. Hitherto we have been crippled by a want of knowledge and communication with each other. By it we shall have the Intercolonial Railway, and increased communication. If there is one object more than another which Nova Scotians have been long desirous of obtaining it has been this great object. The last scheme in reference to it was one which compelled this Province to pay more than many of us thought it ought to bear, but, nevertheless, the house adopted it, so great were the advantages expected to be realized by it. Now we are offered this railway on terms more advantageous than we had any reason to anticipate, and yet those who have heretofore been so anxious to accomplish so great an object now refuse to accept it, and cast away a boon of priceless value,—a conduct which seems to me to border on infatuation. Another result of union will be to afford a field for the energy and industry of our

young men. We have long wanted such openings for enterprise, and the absence of them has driven away a large portion of the youth of the country. The member for North Colchester spoke most glowingly of the resources and advantages of this Province. Why, I should ask him, have they not been able to induce the flower of our population to remain within our limits? I have heard it stated that there are no less than 30,000 Nova Scotians within or in the vicinity of the city of Boston. Upon what principles can we account for this? It is because we offer no adequate inducements for our young men to remain. They expatriate themselves in order to enjoy the larger field and better chances of success offered in the United States than here. I often look around in my own city and ask myself how many of those who were educated with me are still to be found within its limits. Many are beneath the green sod; but many are still living, but not here,—they are far away, in the neighboring States and elsewhere, pushing their fortunes, and forever lost to us. I ask any person familiar with Halifax to look at the signs over the stores in any of the streets—in Granville-street, for instance, and count how many of their occupants are natives of the City. The great majority of our business men are either from abroad or from the country. A short time since I was asked to look at the will of one of our staunch yeomen in the rural districts of this county. In it he had named his several children, and I was surprised to observe—and it is an excellent commentary upon the point—how few there were in Nova Scotia. One son was in California, one in Nevada, another in Kansas, and a fourth in Massachusetts. All the enterprising and energetic had carried their talents and industry to places where they could be better remunerated. We have devoted a portion of our public funds to the introduction of immigrants. I would rather, Mr. Speaker, bring back our Nova Scotia exiles than gather all the immigrants we could obtain from abroad, if we only had the inducements to offer them to remain.

Again, if we had union, we should possess more of a national position than we do at present. Let any Nova Scotian cross the Atlantic and he will soon learn the estimation in which he is held as a Provincial. I recollect an instance which occurred to myself when travelling on the Continent, and how keenly I felt the different position a Colonist held from that of an American citizen. Notwithstanding the remarks of the hon. member for North Colchester, I am persuaded that our leading men, under the Union, will have their minds enlarged and take a higher position as statesmen than they can possibly do in the small and degrading discussions which occupy too much of the time of each Provincial Legislature. Before the American Revolution, there was not a single man in the old Colonies who at that time had acquired an European reputation but Franklin. Washington was only known as a Colonel of Militia, Adams was but a village attorney, and the same may be said of Jefferson, Madison, and other eminent men of the day. They occupied positions such as colonists occupy to-day. When, however, the war was over, and the United States assumed a national character, these men rose to their position, and took high rank in the estimation of the world. Though we do not wish independence, but con-