

well, who, in a short administration has had in Jamaica a butchery and in Australia the machinery of government brought to a stand, insist upon our accepting a certain scheme, no matter how injurious we may consider it to our interests or respect for the long established policy of England should of itself make us hesitate. No man nor no single government changes the policy of Britain in a day. No policy lives there unless founded upon public sentiment. And when a Colonial Secretary attempts to enforce a change in the entire constitution of the country in which we live, regardless of our wishes, we may well regard it only as the act of an individual, until we know that the people who make and unmake Colonial Secretaries have turned their attention to it and approve of it. I am told that public opinion in England does favor this scheme. It may and still be in harmony with the policy pursued towards us. Public opinion in England may be founded upon the information given that the leaders of all parties had combined in the scheme of Union and the usual inference would be that the mass of the people approved. But if the Pro. Secy. will grant us a general election; and if a majority, overwhelming as I believe it would be, is found against this Union, and public opinion thereafter insist upon our adopting it then shall I believe there is a change of policy by the people of England, and then, but not until that is thus shown, shall I think it necessary to consider what sacrifices of our interests we should make from respect to the British Government. We are told that there is not time for this; that events are gathering about us that preclude the possibility of a dissolution; that we are threatened with invasion and that unless we yield to the wishes of the British Government, our country will not be protected. The men who tell us this slander Old England and are guilty of treason. What danger threatens us now? Whence comes the threatened invasion? Not from any act we or any of our people have committed, nor from anything connected with our internal or external interests, but from that which is akin to the act about to be perpetrated here: a forced union. Ah, sir, forced marriages seldom prove fortunate, and the forced union of Ireland with England is bearing fruit. We had a few years ago O'Connell's great agitation for a repeal of that union, but it was restrained in its action by the master mind of the great Dan and by the influences of the Crofts, but thousands of Irishmen have gone out from under the British flag, feeling in their heart that their country has been wronged, and have found under other flags the influences that have strengthened and perpetuated that sense of wrong, and thus they and their offspring have been but too easily led by designing knaves into this Fenian movement, which now threatens our peace. And now are we to be told, when we have placed the entire resources of our country for defence—when every militia man is falling into line, and Nova Scotia one vast drill shed, that England will not help us—meet the danger she has brought upon us—unless we agree to this scheme of Confederation. Then, sir, would she stand disgraced before the civilized world. If the British Parliament sustain a government that makes this the condition upon

which they will now aid us, the whole world will ring with the Frenchman's cry, "Perfidious Albion," and old Cromwell will come back to empty another Parliament House. No, every war ship that comes steaming into our harbour contradicts this assertion, and every intelligence we receive from England assures us that the people sustain the government in making our protection their honor. I have under my hand a letter from a manufacturer in Manchester, who held the position of Major in the volunteers, in whose ranks some of the best blood of England has enlisted, and in this letter there are the strongest assurances of an interest in our position and a desire to aid us in repelling the danger.

Speaking of Fenianism I am reminded that the hon member for Richmond announced, on the authority of a New York paper, that one of the planks of the Fenian platform is to oppose the confederation of these Provinces.

The Prov. Secy also attempts to draw from this an argument in favor of his resolution. Now the object of Fenianism is the liberation of Ireland. The first necessity in this attempt is to secure a territory that will serve as a base for operations. This territory must also be British, because the seizing of any other would involve a double conflict, hence it is of the first importance to Fenianism that there shall be a British Province within easy reach of them. Suppose that to-morrow we should be annexed to the United States, that organization would cease to exist. Othello's occupation would be gone. There would be no suitable and assailable British territory left for them to secure as a base of operations, and I do not doubt that the leaders of the movement, seeing plainly that annexation to Canada will soon be followed by annexation of the whole to the American States, and feeling the strong necessity of having us remain British provinces, do not favour Confederation. I do not mean to say that those who here favor it do so as the means to the end: annexation to the United States, but I firmly believe that will be the result; and if I did not value British connection; if I did not value the liberty and blessings which flow to us from the constitution under which we live, and if I were so craven hearted as not to be ready to meet any danger arising to us because of our connection with England, I, too, would become a Confederate, and seek to enter that current which will sweep us all into republicanism.

I acknowledge England expects us to do more for our own defence than we have hitherto done, but when this is expected of us, and when we are ready and willing to meet the expectations, is it, I ask, the time to curtail our liberties—to take away our rights? When a greater strain is put upon the wheel, it is not the time to cut out part of the spokes; when the gale increases, it is not the time to weaken the cable; nor is this the time to weaken our attachment to the mother country by this Confederation under which we shall at all times feel perplexed to know whether we owe allegiance to England or Canada. Like one of Brigham Young's children adrift in the harbor, we shall feel we have too many mothers. We have here a good many men claiming descent from the old Loyalists, men who settled this country in the belief that the British Government gave up the claim to tax these colonies,