

work, it has been on the Intercolonial Railway. For twenty years all parties have been willing to admit that the construction of this work was a matter of the most vital concern to the people of this country. I will not detain the house by going into any elaborate quotations by which the leading men of these provinces have, from time to time, shown that they believed that the question of Intercolonial Railway was fraught with the most important consequences to the advancement of the Province of Nova Scotia, and when I state to the house that after every effort has been tried and failed, this scheme of union accomplished that work on terms such as no man had ever ventured to ask for this people, I feel that it is not only in the constitution of the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council, but also in respect to this great work, that the delegates from the Maritime Provinces brought back the indisputable evidence of the earnest disposition of Canada to unite their fortunes with our own in a common union which should be beneficial to all.

It is true it was a matter of great importance for Canada to obtain this union—that it opened a door for the removal of the great difficulties that have distracted that country and whatever may be the extent and resources of Canada—and they are inexhaustible, and I might almost say, illimitable,—it can never occupy the position it should except it has a free outlet to the ocean. Therefore, it is not strange that the delegates from the Maritime Provinces came back not only with the evidence that they would have in the upper and lower branch all the guarantees they would require for the advancement of the country, but actually obtained a pledge that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia should secure the construction of the Intercolonial Railway by paying only two-twelfths of the cost instead of seven-twelfths as agreed to by the Legislatures of the two power provinces.

IMMIGRATION WOULD BE PROMOTED.

Can there be a doubt that the Union of British North America, whilst it would promote trade and elevate our credit, would also give an impulse to immigration that we cannot now expect. We are now a field of emigration, instead of one for immigration. Nova Scotia, without trade, and commerce, and manufactures, does not afford a field to our young men. The consequence is, day after day we see our best men going into other countries, where they will occupy a better position, and find an opening for their talents and energies that is denied to them in their native Province. Consolidate British North America, and you will stay, and earn back that tide. You will then restore tens of thousands of her expatriated sons, who have gone to other lands to seek their fortunes, and swell the ranks of our rivals, if not foes.

OUR SECURITY WILL BE PROMOTED BY UNION.

I will now glance at the most important point of all in connection with this question, namely, the security of the country. It is necessary that our institutions should be placed on a stable basis, if we are to have that security for life and property, and personal liberty, which is so desirable in every country. It is quite impossible to place any country upon a stable and respectable footing where security has not the guarantee of permanency—a guarantee that will

inspire confidence in the world. I do not intend on an occasion like this to make any invectives allusions to the great neighboring power near us, but I see events transpiring around us that would make it criminal for any public man to ignore facts which are of the most vital importance to British North America.

THE LESSON OF THE PRESENT.

Yesterday, British America bordered upon a country great in its trade and peaceful pursuits—having a commerce second to none on the globe; but you have seen all that changed as it were in a day. Now you see alongside of as one of the most gigantic military and naval powers that the world has ever seen. Therefore it behoves us to consider whether any public man, in view of the changed attitude of that country, would not be wanting in his duty to the Province if he attempted for a single moment to ignore these circumstances. I drew the attention of the house at its last session to the fact that British North America had owed a great deal of its security to the existence of slavery in the neighboring republic. Is it not necessary, in the light of events that have come to our knowledge to-day, we should consider how close may be at hand the termination of the great struggle which has convulsed that great republic with civil war for four years past; but I think we may safely predict that, let the issue of that struggle end in any manner we can possibly conceive, one thing is certain, and that is, that slavery is doomed. The great slave power, which so long exercised control over the destinies of the States, I have ever looked upon as the best safeguard for British North America, since it was antagonistic to the acquisition of any anti-slavery territory, and consequent increase of influence by the North. Therefore, when we see this gigantic republic relieved from that difficulty, and becoming one of the greatest military powers in the world, it is a matter deserving of our most serious deliberation. I regret to have to say—nor would it be right for me to ignore the fact—that whilst I feel it would be for the interests of British North America to preserve the most amicable relations with the United States, it is impossible for me to shut my eyes to the evidence before me that the tone of that power is decidedly hostile to this country. I deeply deplore that such should be the case; but, at the same time, I would be recreant to my duty as a public man if I did not tell this house and explain the amount of influence that these considerations have had upon my own mind. It is known that until recently the most kindly relations existed between the people of British North America and the United States. Trade was fostered in every way that was possible—every thing that would promote harmony and free commercial intercourse was done. But how do we stand to-day? Whether you regard the public sentiment of that country through the declarations of its Press, its Parliament, or its Government, you can arrive at but one conclusion.

(The hon. gentleman then referred, in support of his statements, to the establishment of the passport system between these Provinces and the States—which was a great source of embarrassment to trade and intercourse between the two countries. He then alluded to the fact that the American Congress had made