

questioned before, is to be tested by the fact whether we unite or refuse to unite with Canada.

WILL THE B. N. A. COLONIES BE GIVEN UP.

Then we are told if Canada was given up, could we be retained—that when Canada falls, we share the same fate. I ask this plain question, Would Confederation save us? Would any union of the people of these Provinces—would any union of our means, unaided by the British Government, save us in the event of the Americans being determined to invade our country and possess it? I say no; but what is the idea implied but not expressed by these gentlemen? The idea implied is this: the Home Government will not assist you unless you confederate. Now I challenge both of these hon. gentlemen to shew me a single passage from a despatch or a speech from a Minister of the Crown that will warrant them in using such language on behalf of the Home Government. I contend that if Canada was given up to-morrow or fell by force of arms, this Province would still be retained. I believe that England feels, and has felt for a long time, that Canada is the weak point on this side of the Atlantic, and that it is the opinion of many British statesmen that if Canada were separated from England to-morrow it would be a great gain to the mother country, and imperil her far less. But there are interests peculiar to Nova Scotia—and in some respects to New Brunswick also, which must influence England to keep them in her possession. When these provinces are gone, what hope can England have of retaining her possessions in the West Indies? Does any gentleman suppose that England, whose greatness is made up to a large extent by colonies scattered in different parts of the globe, is going to part with these sources of her power and prestige? With our inexhaustible coal fields and unrivalled harbors in the possession of an enemy, it must be only a question of time when the West India Islands would suffer the same fate. But I have no belief that the Americans have any design either upon Canada or the maritime colonies. I think that at a time not very far back, when this harbor was the resort of blockaders—when raids were made from Canada across the frontier—when there was much excitement in consequence of the fact that Canada was filled with Southern sympathisers, and the impression was rife that that Province had not done justice in respect to the raiders,—that then a feeling of hostility existed which is fast passing away. The Canadian Government have made ample reparation, and by their recent conduct have succeeded in establishing a better feeling on both sides of the border. There will be no disposition, I think, when this war is brought to a close, to invade these provinces. In the first place, the American government have already accumulated a debt of £500,000,000 sterling, charged with an extravagant rate of interest, that involves an enormous taxation. Their resources have been taxed to the utmost, and the time has come when they require peace. After all, what would they gain by these provinces. Suppose they became possessed of Canada

to-morrow, what would they have? a disaffected people on their hands, who at any time should renewal of hostilities with the South arise, would combine with them and cause them to lose their recently acquired possessions.

FREE TRADE AND CURRENCY.

Then the hon. gentleman has referred to Canada as being our true back country. I have never thought so. What is Canada to us? Examine the Trade Returns. We are told that under Confederation trade would grow up to an enormous extent. I doubt it. But first let me say that our proper back country is New Brunswick, especially that part of it through which Mr. Flemming has been exploring for the Inter-colonial Railway. Although I know that her debt per head is larger than ours, and her tariff is higher, still, looking at the future, a connection with New Brunswick would probably be attended with advantageous results. The hon. member has turned attention to the United States, and shown how much they have gained in late years. How much has Canada grown since Responsible Government was granted? Is it not a common remark, even with Americans, that Canada has increased more rapidly than any State of the Union? And see how we have grown ourselves, under self-government. We are told that American prosperity is the result of free trade. I admit at once that free intercourse amongst the different States has been immensely conducive to the advancement of that remarkable people; but there are other causes that have tended to make her a great country. First of all, there is a great diversity of climate and production. In the South they produce cotton, tobacco, rice and sugar, and in the North they have manufactures, wheat and commerce; and, in addition to all this, there is free trade between thirty millions of people. Suppose you had a Union with Canada to-morrow, have you all these elements of wealth? This question of free trade with Canada can be settled without a political Union; it is a delusion to say otherwise. You might have had free trade years ago; it was offered to the people of Nova Scotia, as it was to those of New Brunswick. It has been refused by both Provinces, for very obvious reasons. In view of the building of the Inter-colonial Railway, it was thought it would largely affect their revenues. Manufactures are much more developed in Canada than either in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia; and under these circumstances, it was thought that a large amount of manufactures would flow into these Provinces, and thereby largely affect our revenue. Therefore it was wisely concluded that, until the Inter-colonial Railway was obtained, we would postpone the consideration of the question of free trade. To those gentlemen who are urging a political Union, for defence and free trade, for the purpose of assimilating our currency and our postal arrangements, I say that all these things can be obtained without Confederation. They know that Canadian statesmen to-morrow would be only too happy to meet you on that platform, and give you a free exchange of manufactures. The question of currency might be adjusted by the Financial Secretaries of the several Provinces in an after-