

be desirable I ask what is the best mode of bringing the union about? I reply, by abandoning the Quebec scheme in the first place. The action of our Government can be of no avail in this particular unless the Government of Canada express the same determination, because the gentlemen composing the delegation to Quebec are bound to carry that scheme if possible, and it will require the consent of all of them to abandon it. Supposing the scheme abandoned, there are three ways of approaching the question. One mode is to assemble the leading minds of the Provinces—and when I say the leading minds, I mean not merely the gentlemen representing the views of those who went to Quebec, but gentlemen who have taken a prominent part against the Quebec scheme, gentlemen opposing any union at all, with a view to the full consideration of the subject, just as that which any question requires. Public men from all the Provinces should then be assembled in such numbers that all cause of jealousy should be removed. Let me here say, to guard myself from misinterpretation, that any scheme of union, after being thus considered, must come back to the Parliaments and to the people for ratification. I care not how perfect or how advantageous the scheme may be, unless the Parliaments and the people are consulted, it must fail to satisfy the country. Another mode would be to assemble Delegates, composed of the same elements, at the Colonial Office, where, in presence of Her Majesty's Ministers, the question could be discussed; but even in that case it must come back to be settled by our people. But there is a third mode that recommends itself to me: there is great diversity between the interests of Canada and those of the Maritime Provinces while the latter have many interests in common, I would therefore convene delegates from the four Maritime Provinces and see if they can agree on a platform for a union with Canada. I maintain that if the delegates were to assemble at the Colonial office, acting in detached parties, they would be cut into fragments, they would have no policy in common, and would be at the mercy of the Canadian influences by which they would be surrounded in London. Any policy, therefore, recommending itself to the people, must be matured as I think by the representatives of the Maritime Provinces. Then would come up this question:—Should not these four Provinces go in as one asking for equal representation with either of the Canadas and claiming it as their right and throwing overboard the unsound principle of representation by population,—taking care also, that their revenues should be properly secured.—If the Maritime Provinces could thus be brought to agree upon a platform then let the debate be adjourned to the Colonial office, and our delegates being thus brought face to face with Canadian representatives, we might expect Her Majesty's Government to force Canada to accept such terms as reason would recommend. Even then the scheme must come back to us to be ratified, and do you think that the people, having confidence in the Maritime Convention and in the Imperial Government, would reject fair and reasonable proposals? I do not recognize the

necessity for a union, but I believe that in deference to the wishes of the British Government a scheme so arranged would be accepted. That was what I meant when I wrote the article referred to the other day; but I meant more—I meant that our relations with the parent country should be strengthened. What is there in the Quebec scheme to prevent a separation? I may be mistaken, but I thought I could see in England, during my recent visit there, a desire to get rid of these Colonies, and an impression that by Confederation England would be relieved of a portion of the expense which we cause at present. I was sorry to see in high quarters a desire that these Colonies should be got rid of; and I apprehend seriously that Confederation, pure and simple, is only another name for independence. I wish to guard against that; my desire is that British America should remain British America. I wish to strengthen our relations with the parent state, and I believe that the only mode of accomplishing that is by having representation in the Imperial Parliament. With that connecting link we would always form a part of the Empire. What is it that makes California or Texas a part of the American Union? It is their representation in Congress and in the Senate. Take away that representation, and how long will they form a part of the Union? They are each large enough and far enough away to set up for themselves. The time may come when these Colonies will be required to come forward in defence of the mother country; and if I were an Englishman I would never consent to any step approaching independence. I saw a calculation the other day which showed that the coal fields of Great Britain, upon which her enormous prosperity to so great an extent depends, will be exhausted in about 112 years, but at the present rate of consumption that period would probably be reduced to fifty years, and America being in possession of the coal mines of Nova Scotia, of her fisheries, and of her maritime facilities, would become immediately the first maritime power in the world. Looking to her manufacturing interests alone England should preserve the colonies, and if she would make them a part of the Empire, the great field of manufacture might be transferred from the old world to the new. Looking at the matter as an Englishman, I would say, suppose Confederation takes place and the Provinces become independent their connection with the mother country is gone, and what if annexation should follow?—Suppose America were to ally herself with Russia, and she has strong propensities in that direction, even the safety of the British islands would be imperilled. British statesmen should view the matter in the light of expediency, and instead of endeavoring to get rid of us on account of our expensiveness, they should draw us nearer to England, making us a part of the Empire, and giving us representation in her Parliament. Any scheme wanting that element will, I believe, be defective, and any scheme which does not improve our relations with the Mother country will certainly eventuate in independence. Suppose that by the repeal of the reciprocity treaty Canada should