

country—one general command—our strength will be vastly increased, by the ability to concentrate force when necessary at any important point. The hon. member for East Halifax would have the people of the province pay pound for pound with those of Liverpool, Manchester and London, and leave the expenditure to the British Government irresponsible of any power. We would then have no control over the expenditure, and could not supervise those who would expend the moneys thus raised. If we were united under one Government, and had one central Legislature, then the money would be under its control; and our own representatives would see that it was judiciously expended.

The hon. member for East Halifax told us that the necessities of Canada forced them to unite with us. I tell the hon. gentleman Union was spoken of, and introduced by the gentleman whose mouth-piece he is, long before it was thought of seriously in Canada. They had no necessities that forced them to a union with the Maritime Provinces. All that they had to do was to agree to the principle that is introduced into the Quebec scheme, Representation by population; and I believe they will be found ready to adopt that principle in their own local affairs if this scheme fails. When this question is settled, they have no important difficulties to disturb them. If the question of Union has attained its present position rapidly, it has been aided by the resolution that his own government introduced and carried in this House some years ago without a division. When Canada found that the Lower Provinces were taking measures for a union among themselves, her public men asked if we could not unite in a Confederation of all the Provinces. When we went to Charlottetown, we found that, owing to the opposition both of New Brunswick and P. E. Island, the smaller Union was impracticable. Not a word was said about union with Canada until it was found that union of the Maritime Provinces could not be brought about. I may add, that the question of a Legislative union of the Maritime Provinces was again brought up at the Quebec Convention. Canada and Nova Scotia urged that union, but gentlemen representing the two provinces named would not consent to that union. If, therefore, the Maritime union has not been carried, it is not the fault of Nova Scotia or Canada.

Reference has been made to the financial necessities of Canada. We know from our own experience that the revenue will fall off considerably during some years; one year Nova Scotia had a deficiency of £29,000. Three or four years in succession of failure of crops affected the importations into Canada, and consequently caused a deficiency in the revenue, but I can assure gentlemen that Canada is not now in any position to require assistance. Yet gentlemen who would object to Confederation with Canada for fear of extra taxation, would have no unwillingness to annex us to the United States, with its immense war debt and exhausting taxation. Canada now is as prosperous as any portion of the globe.

The hon. member told us that the Imperial Government had no policy until after the report of the delegates. In this he may be correct. The British government, looking at the fact that leading men representing both politi-

cal parties in the provinces were in favour of union, and had adopted a measure for their confederation, had every reason to suppose that they represented the feelings and wishes of the country. When the British public saw that the Colonies were entertaining the scheme for Union—that the leading men had concurred in its details, they felt that this was a measure that invited their serious consideration and approval. I tell the hon. member for Shelburne that it is not only Mr. Cardwell who has spoken strongly on this question; if he did not support it, I believe he could not remain in his present position. No government could be formed in England unless it encouraged and stimulated this union, for public opinion in that country is almost unanimously in favor of that scheme. I know this from leading supporters as well as opponents of that government.

I have already pointed to some of the parties who are opposing the Union of the British North American Provinces. I have shown you that some of these gentlemen profess to be Annexationists to the American Republic.—But we had on the promulgation of the Quebec scheme opposition from another quarter.—It will be remembered that there was a paper published in Halifax under the not very euphonious title of the *Bullfrog*, patronised and encouraged very largely by gentlemen in the Anti-Confederate interest. This paper was edited principally by gentlemen in the Royal Artillery in this garrison, who have since published a work on Confederation, which I find reviewed in an English paper. I must say that, if the Review expresses their views, these gentlemen have been guilty of the grossest libel upon the loyal people of Nova Scotia that was ever penned. When we look at a man's conduct in all its relations, then only can we form a just conclusion as to the motives that actuate him. I will now read to you from a review of the work in question:—

*The Confederation of British North America.* By E. C. BOLTON and H. H. WEBBER, Royal Artillery.—London: Chapman and Hall.

The authors of this volume go dead against a scheme which was received with much approval in this country, and was believed to have been also, on the whole, favourably looked upon in the colonies.—We mean, of course, the proposal for the Confederation of the British North American Provinces. It seems, however, according to the authors of the work before us, that we were all wrong on the subject.—Confederation, they declare, is neither possible nor desirable—indeed, is not desired, in the wide sense of the word, at all. The maritime provinces, while they are favorable to a federation among themselves, are bitterly inimical to a union with Canada; while all the Colonies—Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island—are much more inclined to be annexed to the United States than to the confederation proposed, and only value British connection for the sake of Imperial expenditure among them. The Confederation scheme the authors pronounce to be a farce; and, if carried out, a ruinous farce. The colonies wish to do nothing, and will do nothing to provide defenses for themselves. The mother country, they think, cannot do without them—in fact, would sink into the position of a third-rate power were her American colonies severed from her, while they would still retain their trade with the United States, with England and with the rest of the world. The people of all the Provinces are, we are told far more Yankee than British in their characters and their habits, and even in their sympathies; and the loyalty to the Crown, of which we hear so much is, if we may trust Messrs. Bolton and Webber, only a mere lip affair, put on to keep up appearances and induce a con-