

Quebec having failed to secure the approval of any one of the four Maritime Provinces, we would suggest that, *with a view to the future of British America*, a convention be summoned, with the sanction of the Crown to deliberate upon the many weighty matters and things which would necessarily be involved in debate upon a *question of such magnitude and importance*. That the convention should be held at such place and at such time as the Governor General, acting under the authority of the Crown, shall determine. And that in the selection of delegates from the several Provinces, due regard shall be observed, besides allotting to each Province a like number of delegates, that the views and opinions of all parties are fairly represented.

"This is our mode of dealing with the question of union. The convention might not, perhaps, agree to any scheme for the future Government of the North American Colonies and their relations with the Mother Country, *although we believe they would*. And whatever the result, every one would feel that the questions of the deepest importance, involving the present welfare and happiness of four millions of people, had been discussed with a full view of their consequences as well to them as to millions yet unborn, and with the full benefit of all that has been said and written to illustrate this truly great theme since the scheme of Confederation was first proposed a little over a year ago" — *Morning Chronicle Nov 11th 1865*

Yet, this is the hon. member who has yet to hear the first argument in favor of Union with Canada. The hon. member's inconsistencies are so glaring that I feel I need hardly pursue further so fruitless a topic.

It has been asked, will Confederation save us? We have been told over and over again that there is no danger from the United States—that they do not want these Provinces. The lessons of history will tell us the reverse. These gentlemen have proved false prophets for the past, and are likely to be so for the future. The whole policy of the United States has been the acquisition of territory. Their ambition is insatiable. They wish to have dominion from the North Pole to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. They have got Texas and California, and a slice of New Brunswick, within a few years, and now they yearn after British North America. If they have had one reason more than another for abrogating the Reciprocity Treaty, it is that they think they will force us to come into the American Union.

The question that we have to decide is, whether we shall belong to the United States or to Great Britain. Shall we have the Red Cross of England, or the Stars and Stripes of the American Republic float over our heads in the future? Shall we have the Queen at St. James's as our Ruler, or the President at the White House in Washington?

What will be the result of annexation I need hardly tell you. We shall be ruined by most frightful taxation; our fishermen, all our industrial class, will be burthened beyond their capacity to bear. Our object should be to continue the

connection with the great empire from which we have sprung, and under whose protecting care the institutions of this country have grown up, and our prosperity has been secured. No one, as I just said, can look at the feeling in the neighboring Republic without seeing that these Provinces are at present in a position of great jeopardy. In the first place, there is the Fenian organization growing up into most formidable pretensions, and behind them is the great mass of the American people animated by the most deadly hostility against England arising out of the late civil war. Then there is the question of the fisheries again looming up, and no one can under-estimate the difficulties and disputes it may originate. We see the Senate of the country itself exhibiting a spirit that looks warlike, and should put us on our guard. They are ready to support their fishermen, if they should enter our harbours and bays, and infringe upon our rights. Suppose war should arise out of this state of things, in what position would Nova Scotia be, isolated as she is now? Comparatively defenceless.

Union, then, will ensure us security; will give us an immense expansion of trade; raise up manufactures, enlarge the political arena; give us the Intercolonial Railway; and above all preserve us from being absorbed by the rapacious American Republic. We have great natural resources, but they must be dormant whilst we have no population or market to raise up manufactures in our midst. As respects the Intercolonial Railway, it is unnecessary for me to repeat what is now an established fact—that we cannot have it without union. The futile efforts of public men of all parties in this Province to obtain its construction are matters of history, and general notoriety. Complete that railroad, and Halifax becomes one of the greatest commercial emporiums of this continent—the New York or Liverpool of the British North American Confederation. No one who looks at the map can believe for a moment that Nova Scotia was intended to remain politically divided from her sister colonies of British North America. She is destined by nature—to quote the sentiment of Mr. Howe—"to become the frontage of a mighty Empire." Give us union, and the stream of immigration will be directed to our shores, for then we can offer those inducements to capital and labour that we cannot give in our present isolated condition. If we remain disunited, then the prophecies of these gentlemen in respect to annexation will be realized. The time may come when we shall have the British flag lowered beneath the stars and stripes, and the last gun fired from the Citadel as a British fort. Let the American people feel that there is no British sentiment among us—let us obstinately reject the advice of the British government and people, and annexation will be the inevitable issue. Then the wish of the hon. member for East Halifax will be realized. *The Fenians will have full sway in these Provinces, and the stars and stripes shall float over Citadel Hill*. But I believe that there is a better fate awaiting us—that the loyalty of the people of Nova Scotia is sincere, and that they will see the necessity of union. I believe Confederation is close at hand, and that the