

solidation, in British America, I am convinced that the effects produced will not be less elevating in our case than in that of the neighboring Republic.

I will now refer shortly to some remarks upon the disadvantages which we are told will result from the project. First—it is said that our union means separation from England. I think I have already disposed of this, for I need only repeat that the whole public mind in the mother country is in favor of the plan, for the very reason that it will draw parent and children closer together, to be united by one common tie. The main objection, however, which has been brought forward, is one of a financial character. It is said we have made a bad bargain—in the language of the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. LeVesconte) the Provincial Secretary has sold his country to Canada! Well, my answer is, the sale is not yet perfected, for it has still to be ratified. But is it so bad a bargain? The objections are twofold—political and financial.

They say we have not a fair representation in the United Parliament. I ask, what has been conceded to us in the Legislative Council? We shall have in that body, which I am happy to see is to be purely of a monarchical character, and whose functions will be high and important, greater weight than we were really entitled to. But it is said that the real power of the Parliament will be in the House of Assembly, and that there we will not be adequately represented. We shall be represented upon the true principle, that is, according to our population, and I cannot see how such an arrangement can be objected to, or what could be considered more equitable. But the hon. member for North Colchester would introduce a curious idea in connection with this. He would increase the representation in proportion to the distance from the capital. I think my hon. friend from the county of Cape Breton would gladly accede to this, as it would largely increase the influence of his favourite island.—This idea was illustrated by a reference to the distribution of the members of Parliament in England, but the hon. member should have gone further; he should have told us what representation Scotland actually has, and what she would be entitled to on his principle. He would find his argument utterly fall him.

As regards the financial aspect of the bargain, the matter has been so fully discussed that I do not intend to enter into it further than to say that we have had numerous statements and calculations during the last few weeks, scarcely one of which agrees with another. The truth is, statements of figures are too often very delusive, and unless the premises are scrutinized and found correct the conclusions are worthless. All that may be said is that though we shall be required to give up the larger part of our general revenues we receive a yearly subvention sufficient with our local revenue to provide for our local wants. As regards the question of increase of tariff we have had the same wide difference in computation. The hon. member for South Colchester puts it at such an insignificant figure as to make it a subject of astonishment that any person should dread its imposition. But even if we were to take the increase at the largest sum mentioned, that of a dollar per head, would not the great benefits to be derived warrant us in increasing

our burdens even to that extent? But I am not afraid that there will be so great an increase, and am quite confident that increased prosperity will enable us to meet without difficulty whatever additional taxation may be required. To the city of Halifax union will be of inestimable advantage. Let any of our citizens visit the busy wharves of Boston, or sail into the port of New York by the East River and see the long lines of shipping extending for miles on either hand as he approaches the Hudson, and then return to Halifax, and how great is the contrast! Now, if we have union and the intercolonial railway my expectation is that so great a contrast will soon be lessened. We need not expect to attain to the eminence of their commercial emporium, but we may hope that the traveller visiting us hereafter will find a harbor filled with shipping and busy with trade, and a city whose streets will be thronged with an active and prosperous population.

I am afraid I have been trespassing upon the patience of the house longer than I had intended, but I cannot conclude without making a few remarks upon the offensive display made by the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Miller) the other evening in reference to myself. Now among the great advantages of the contemplated Union, I consider not the least to be, that the tone of public men and public sentiment will be far higher in consequence, and that the debates of the General Parliament will not be disgraced by such a wretched exhibition of personalities as we were treated with on the occasion I refer to. That hon. gentleman took occasion to pass upon my public conduct in reference to the Union, and to assert that I had acted the mean part of concealing my sentiments until I had ascertained the feeling of the majority of my constituents. Now, in answer to this unfounded statement, I have merely to appeal to the hon. member for East Halifax (Mr. Annand), who is present, and who knows that hardly had the Delegates returned before I had publicly exhibited my feelings on the subject, and that he good-naturedly challenged me with doing so in the public streets. My sentiments were never concealed from my constituents. As to the very gentlemanly charge of skulking beneath the galleries when I ought to have been on the platform, my answer is, that it is simply without foundation. I was present on the platform at the first meeting in Temperance Hall, but from all the others I was absent owing to the inclemency of the weather and the delicate state of my health. I hardly know that it was even necessary to refer to these things, but I have done so because I felt it due to this house to give this public contradiction to the statements made. I know that my constituents do not require it.

As regards the other personalities which have fallen from the hon. gentleman, I can treat them as idle wind, and do not feel it necessary to take any notice of them. The position of every gentleman who enters this House is soon assigned him by his brother members, who gauge and test his qualifications before he has been with them many weeks. With whatever position they may assign me I am quite content, and sure I am I shall never envy that of one whose recent display has neither added credit nor dignity to this assembly.