

position, was worthless to us as an ally, either commercially or politically. The hon member is in unison with Mr. Howe on this question now, but let us see what the hon. member's friend has said on former times about Canada, when it was not his interest to traduce that country:—

"But, sir, daring as may appear the scope of this conception, high as the destiny may seem which it discloses for our children, and boundless as are the fields of honorable labor which it presents another, grander in proportions, opens beyond; one which the imagination of a poet could not exaggerate, but which the statesman may grasp and realize, even in our own day. Sir, to bind these disjointed Provinces together by iron roads; to give them the homogeneous character fixedness of purpose, and elevation of sentiment, which they so much require, is our first duty. But, after all, they occupy but a limited portion of that boundless heritage which God and nature have given to us and to our children. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are but the frontage of a territory which includes four millions of square miles, stretching away behind and beyond them, to the frozen regions on the one side and the Pacific on the other. Of this great section of the globe, all the Northern Provinces, including Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, occupy but four hundred and eighty-six thousand square miles. The Hudson's Bay territory includes two hundred and fifty thousand miles. Throwing aside the more bleak and inhospitable regions, we have a magnificent country between Canada and the Pacific, out of which five or six new Provinces may be formed, larger than any we have, and presenting to the hand of industry, and to the eye of speculation, every variety of soil, climate, and resource. With such a territory as this to overrun, organize and improve, think you that we shall stop even at the western bound of Canada? or even at the shores of the Pacific? Vancouver's Island, with its vast coal measures, lies beyond. The beautiful islands of the Pacific and the growing commerce of the ocean, are beyond. Populous China and the rich East, are beyond; and the asils of our children's children will reflect as familiarly the sunbeams of the South, as they now brave the angry tempests of the North. The maritime Provinces which I now address, are but the Atlantic frontage of this boundless and prolific region; the wharves upon which its business will be transacted, and beside which its rich argosies are to lie. Nova Scotia is one of these. Will you, then, put your hands unitedly, with order, intelligence, and energy to this great work? Refuse, and you are recalcitrant to every principle which lies at the base of your country's prosperity and advancement; refuse, and the Delty's handwriting upon land and sea, is to you unintelligent language; refuse, and Nova Scotia, instead of occupying the foreground as she now does should have been thrown back, at least behind the Rocky Mountains. God has planted your country in the front of this boundless region; see that you comprehend its destiny and resources—see that you discharge, with energy and elevation of soul, the duties which devolve upon you in virtue of your position."

I scarcely require to make an apology for reading to this house an extract so eloquent. I may say that eloquent as have been the speeches of the advocates of this scheme, none of them can exceed this, or more fully recognize the importance and benefits of Union. I would be quite content to put these words of the eminent man from whom I quoted against the remarks that the hon. member for Yarmouth thought proper to make. And I would ask him to give the same weight to these words of Mr. Howe, as he is ready to give the opinions of the same gentleman to-day. There is no man who is acquainted with the resources of Canada—with the industry and energy of her people—with the great progress that has been made in all the elements of prosperity, but

must recognize the want of truth in the statements of the hon. member, and the want of magnanimity be displayed in disparaging a colony which has increased more rapidly in recent years than any other part of the world. There is no country in North America that, in the last fifty years, has advanced so rapidly and so steadily in all the sources of material wealth and greatness as the Province of Canada.

On another occasion, in a great speech which the same gentleman delivered in this House on the Organization of the Empire he says:—

"Sir, the first question which we men of the North must put to ourselves, is, have we a territory broad enough of which to make a nation? At the risk of travelling over some of the ground trodden yesterday by the learned member for Annapolis, I think it can be shown that we have. Beneath, around, and behind us, stretching away from the Atlantic to the Pacific, are four millions square miles of territory. All Europe with its family of nations, contains but three million seven hundred and eighty thousand, or two hundred and ninety-two thousand miles less. The United States include three million three hundred and thirty thousand five hundred and seventy-two square miles, or seven hundred and sixty-nine thousand one hundred and twenty-eight less than British America. Sir, I often smile when I hear some vain-glorious Republican exclaiming:—

"No pent-up Utica contracts our power,
The whole unbounded continent is ours!"

forgetting that the largest portion does not belong to him at all, but to us, the men of the North, whose descendants will control its destinies for ever. Sir, the whole globe contains but thirty-seven million square miles. We, North Americans, living under the British flag, have one ninth of the whole, and this ought to give us "ample room and verge enough" for the accommodation and support of a countless population."

These were the sentiments that Mr. How, impressed upon the people of this country. What then did they lead to? When the Provincial Secretary moved the resolution, two years ago, for the Union of the Maritime Colonies, I stated in a very short speech, that from my earliest recollection of the political history of this country I had been impressed with the conviction that the leading men on both sides had always advocated the Union of the British North American Colonies, and that a desire for such Union largely pervaded the public mind of this country. I regretted, on that occasion, that instead of a Union of the Maritime Provinces, we could not aspire to a Union of all the Colonies in British North America. Sir, I did not stand alone in entertaining that opinion, and I venture to assert that it was the opinion of the large majority of the people of this country, until their fears and prejudices were aroused by demagogues who had other ends to serve, and not a leading man but has been found in the front pressing forward this great question. But Mr. Howe, in a letter which he published the other day, says we are powerless to defend ourselves. Let us see what he thought on that subject a few years ago; after eloquently referring to the necessity for the future consolidation of these colonies, he said:—

"Taking our population at two millions and a half, (it is now nearer four millions,) every fifth person should be able to draw a trigger, giving 600,000 men capable of bearing arms. Such a force would be powerless as an invading army, but in defence of these Provinces invincible by any force that could be sent from abroad."