rendered efficient, of what service would they be unless they were available for the defence of the frontiers of Canada or of New Brunswick? That our sons would be required to shoulder arms and march to the frontiers of Canada has been urged as an argument against Confederation. This feature is often urged as a military point of view. It will never be heard said, the Gunboats of a Trans-atlantic Power might enter into any one of our numerous harbors do a great deal of mischief and depart before our defenders could be mustered. Unless under a general organization our Militia will necessarily be useless. I speak as a man, Sir, that I am the most efficient officer in the service, although I have held a commission for a quarter of a century, and have never seen the company to which I am supposed to be attached. Although opposed to spending money uselessly upon our Militia, I am in favor of training every man in the Province capable of bearing arms, provided such training be conducted under a general organization, believing that readiness on our part for defence, would be our best protection against invasion. I am quite confident that

"4. Resolved, That a Federal Union of British North America, as set forth in the resolutions adopted in the Conference of Delegates from the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and by the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, held at the City of Quebec, 10th October, 1864, as the basis of a proposed Confederation of those Provinces and Colonies, would tend to promote the development of the resources of the whole and the enhancing capabilities of these Provinces and Colonies, and advance the general prosperity, by inducing the substitution of a Customs Tariff, uniform and common to the Confederation, in lieu of the various Tariffs now in force in the several Provinces and Colonies.

The first practical means of advancing our prosperity would be found in a Union such as is proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference. A great deal has been said and written on the subject of the proposed Confederation by our leaded statesmen, who have told the people of the disastrous effects the Union would exert upon our trade and manufactures. If the gentlemen, to whom I allude, have not instructed, they have, at least, amused the more intelligent of their hearers and readers. I admit, Sir, that our trade is chiefly in agricultural produce, that our manufactures are few, and that there are physical disabilities which will prevent us from becoming a great manufacturing country. For five months in the year we are cut off from communication with our neighbors, yet, Sir, our manufactures are capable of expansion, and under Union they would expand. At present the manufacturers of Leather and of Cloth are obliged to limit their operations. If they manufacture more than they can sell in this little Island they have to export, subject to heavy duty. Yet even in the face of this duty we now export Island Manufactured Leather to New Brunswick. But, Sir, Union would develope the enormous manufacturing capabilities of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Great, Prince Edward Island never can become, her geographical position, her limited area, her small population, and the absence of all mineral deposits, precludes us from becoming a great country; but, Sir, the Province with which it is proposed that we should unite, contain every element of greatness; there is no reason then, why they should not become a great and prosperous country, or why we should not share their greatness. It is argued that the Canadian Tariff would follow Union, and that the people of Prince Edward Island would, under its operation, be necessitated to pay an increased amount of duties. I do not believe such would be the case. It is true that the Canadian Tariff is very much higher than the Tariff of this Island. Tea and Sugar, imported under the Canadian Tariff, would probably cost higher than they cost at present, but, it is equally true that a variety of articles on which we now pay duty, would then, as the manufactures of the Confederation come to be duty free, and the saving which we should effect on those articles of Home Manufacture, would very materially exceed the excess of duty which we should pay upon foreign importations. It has been urged, that under Confederation, although we might obtain from within the Confederation many articles, the manufactures of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Canadian Tariff would prevent such articles from being imported from Britain and the United States. But, Sir, if, under Confederation, the people of Prince Edward Island should be able to procure British Colonial Manufactures cheaper than they can now procure similar articles from the United States or Britain, they would evidently be gainers by Confederation. The great wealth and prosperity of Britain are due, in great measure, to the use and free trade which she possesses. The importance of the position of the Isle was recognized many ages ago. When Cæsar attempted to force the treasure of gold and silver from Britain for aid, he tells us, "Cæsar, finding that he could not overcome another should come to be better than others, he has resolved to be master of all the gold and silver." Cæsar, in his day, caused Britain to become the workshop of the world. Whatever there, on the face of the earth, is capable of producing power, there is abundance of it in Britain. Her workshops are supplied with iron, and in addition has an abundance of fertile land. Her population is close, proximity to each other and to navigable harbors, and in addition has an abundance of fertile land. Her population wish all these advantages must become a great nation. (Hear, hear.) Why, I would ask, are British Americans not to get make an effort to develope our boundless manufacturing capabilities? Were you, Sir, to go to the enterprising people of the adjoining republic, and to enter their manufactories, you would then learn the fact that a large number of their tools and machinery are from their British Provinces; that Island has contributed her proportion of those valuable tools; they year after year have their native country and never return to it because, Sir, there is not sufficient employment for them. (Hear, hear.) The respective Colonists set to work to establish manufactories, the better will it be for all of us. But, Sir, to this, Confederation is essential. Tariffs between the Provinces must be abolished. The population of Nova Scotia is too limited to support extensive manufactories, and the same thing may be said of New Brunswick. In illustration I may be permitted to state that the latter Province is capable of producing an unlimited supply of very valuable coal, all—an article which we last year paid in duty upon, which cost us £30,000. The proprietors of the coal oil works produce the article only to limited quantity. They cannot send their oil to Nova Scotia or to this Island, by reason of the duty which, in each of the Provinces, is imposed upon its importation, and therefore their enterprise is only partially worked. Unite the several Provinces, as proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference, give to Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, to Prince Edward Island four millions of consumers. If this should be done, our young men, who have the aggregate population of the United States, would find employment in their native Provinces. Sir, it is impossible to over estimate the manufacturing greatness which Nova Scotia is capable of attaining. The iron and coal of that Province are now exported to Europe and to the United States where they are employed in the manufactures of articles which we now import from these countries. The time is propitious for Confederation. We may reasonably hope for the restoration of peace in the United States. Intercolonial free trade would in the words of the resolution promote the development of the trade and manufacturing capabilities of the Colonies and advance the great prosperity, but intercolonial free trade is impracticable without Confederation. The proceedings of the Conference at Charlottetown and Quebec were watched with interest by the civilized world. The people of those countries of Europe which send emigrants to America have had their attention directed to the British Provinces. Let these Provinces become consolidated, and then emigrants to come from Europe, as well as many now in the Republic, will seek the British Provinces as a home instead of the United States, now so heavily taxed. I come now, Sir, to the 5th and 6th Resolutions:—

"5. That the Report of the Conference of Delegates from the British North American Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, taken as a whole, contains a declaration of principles—as the basis of a Federal Union—which this House considers just to the several Provinces and Colonies."

"6. *Resolved*, That this House, believing it is only by mutual concessions and compromises the several British North American Provinces and Colonies can ever agree upon those principles which shall form the basis of a Union, orders that the report of the Conference of Delegates from those several Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, be published throughout this Colony for the deliberate consideration of the people, on whom will devolve the acceptance or rejection of the proposed Union."

I am sorry to say, Sir, that I have no hope of carrying a majority in favor of the declaration, that the principles of Union contained

in the Report of the Quebec Conference are just to this Island. I believe them to be so. I declared myself in favor of this Report, while at the Conference, because I do believe, Sir, Sir, I trust I have too high a respect for myself to say now, that the principles of Union therein laid down are not just to this Island, because the great majority of the people regard them as unfair. The sentiments which form the Report, as I have already stated are the results of mutual difference and concession, and in my humble opinion, they are just to the whole country. I have the honor to hold, Sir, that by advocating the adoption of the principles of the Quebec Report, I am giving myself a contradiction to the opinion of my friends, and especially of my own constituents. I feel, Sir, that I am not a worthy representative of the people who repose in me, as a Representative of the people, were I to shrink from the full expression of my opinion upon a great subject deeply affecting the interests of the Colony, simply because my constituents, or the people of the Colony, are supposed to entertain adverse views." Sir, the views or wishes of my constituents are not question, but, in themselves, have no influence upon my opinion. In the present instance, I believe Confederation would promote the best interests of this Island. I may be aware that my constituents think otherwise, and are opposed to Confederation. My individual opinion may remain unchanged, but a knowledge of the views and wishes of my constituents, would most materially influence my conduct. Popular opinion is powerful, yet, in many respects, it is not so long as for many of those, who now denounce the Report of the Quebec Conference, admit that after mature deliberation, they have come to the conclusion that its principles are just. I regard the terms of the Report of the Quebec Conference—so far as they relate to Prince Edward Island—to be, in a financial aspect, just and even liberal. The average indebtedness of the Province generally, is equal to $26 per head of the population. The debt of Prince Edward Island is, in round numbers, $1,000,000, in excess of $2 per head. By the terms of the Report we should receive annually from the General Government the interest of an amount equivalent to $23 per head of our population—less the interest of our equal indebtedness—in other words, we should receive annually £30,000 currency from the General Government, over and above the interest upon our public debt. I shall, doubtless, be told that under Confederation our Tariff would be raised so as to yield a revenue equivalent to $25 per head, the aggregate population of the Provinces, and that therefore we should pay annually, in extra taxation, a sum exceeding £30,000. I, Sir, contend that, under Confederation, we should, for reasons which I have already stated, pay less in duties than we pay at present, notwithstanding the higher Tariff. If I am correct in this view of the matter, it is clear that the £30,000 a year would be gained, as a consequence of Confederation. This £30,000 a year, together with the annual allowance of 80 cents per head of our population, estimated according to the census of 1861, and a few other items, would be sufficient for our requirements. (Laughter.) But, say the opponents of Confederation, "our population will, in a few years, be double what it now is, while our income from the General Government will not increase." I think I am justified in asserting that the expense of maintaining our Government would not be materially increased, although our population should be doubled. The allowance of 80 cents per head is fixed alike to all the Provinces. When the population of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, shall be increased to 7,000,000 or 8,000,000, those Provinces will receive no more than 80 cents per head of their population in 1861. In all the British North American Provinces, Revenue is derived chiefly from Customs and Excise. When the population of the Confederation shall be double what it now is, the consumption of articles paying duty will be vastly increased, and the revenue proportionately augmented. Reduction of taxation would follow, as a matter of course. The great Public Works of Canada will by and-bye be completed, her Strongholds fortified, her Canals widened and completed, and her Lakes and Rivers rendered navigable, and, Sir, I consider myself fully justified in assuming that the increase of population throughout the Confederation, and more especially in Canada, will be so rapid, the consumption of duty paying articles so great, that at no distant day the rate of taxation per head, required for the maintenance of the General Government, will be less than is now paid in Prince Edward Island, the least taxed of the Provinces. In Canada, Roads, Bridges, and other local works are not provided for from the general Revenue, as in Prince Edward Island. The alleged excessive local taxation in some of the municipalities of Upper Canada, has been adduced, in order to terrify the people of this Island, and cause them to oppose Confederation. "The people of Prince Edward Island would not be, in any degree, affected by the local municipal taxation in Upper Canada." It stands for local municipal purposes, be received in Canada, does not, this fact warrant the assumption that the people of Upper Canada would be our allies in the work of keeping as low as possible the general taxation, by which alone we should be affected. Sir, I speak not to be assumed that there are disadvantages to which Confederation would subject us. Assume, Sir, that we should have to pay for our Tea and Sugar one penny per pound more than we pay at present, and a halfpenny per yard more for Calico. Do any such disadvantages fairly into insignificance when contrasted with the benefits which would result from Confederation? The old Colonies—now included in the United States of America—in little more than half a century, under Confederation, became one of the most prosperous nations on the face of the earth. Those Colonies entered upon their Confederate existence possessing fewer advantages than we now enjoy. "Why should not we emulate their example? Why shall we not utilize our resources, and enter upon the career of prosperity which is clearly open to us?" What Confederation did for the older Colonies; it would do for us. We have Railways, and Steamboats, and machinery which they had not. We have a country in no respect equal to theirs. Are we prepared to admit that our people are inferior to the old Colonists, or to the Americans of the present day? We have hitherto imported tobacco and baskets, and wooden wares, from the United States. Have we not upon our shores, all the requisites for manufacturing these articles? Why should we send to the United States, or across the broad Atlantic for the simplest iron castings, seeing that we export from Nova Scotia to those countries, both coal and iron? Confederation would prove our best security against foreign invasion, and preserve to us our Monarchical Institutions. I feel, Sir, that I am approaching what my eloquent friend, the member for Charlottetown, Mr Brecken, is pleased facetiously to designate "the glory argument." I attach great importance to this glory argument. I desire to live under Monarchical Institutions, and the glorious flag of old England. Sir, there are in this House honorable members who smile when the glory argument is mentioned. Their fathers made great sacrifices in order that they might enjoy those privileges which are the inheritance of British subjects. In the Maritime Provinces are now to be found the descendants of men who left the United States upon the declaration of Independence, abandoning their property and the home in which their children had been born, impelled to do so by the "glory argument." The American loyalists were attached to Monarchical Institutions. They valued their privileges as British subjects; and rather than become Republicans they made the greatest sacrifices, and sought new homes on British soil, in the wilderness in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. But, Sir, to return to the commercial argument. Confederation would give us better markets than we now have for our agricultural produce. Halifax, Boston and St John would become great and populous cities, the emporiums of trade and manufactures; and, with these capitals we have, even now, daily communication. In these cities we should find ready and greatly increased markets for our produce, and consequently should be better able to bear increased taxation, than we are at present to pay the taxes to which we are subject. Confederation would also give us the Inter-colonial Railway, with its many advantages. But, Sir, one at least of the opponents of Confederation—a gentleman high in position in this Island—has argued as a reason why we should not accept Confederation, that the Inter-colonial Railway would injure the people of this Colony. It would, says the gentleman to whom I allude, be the means of bringing under cultivation large tracts of wilderness land in New Brunswick, the produce of which would compete with the productions of this Island. The Inter-colonial Railway, argues the same authority, would afford great facilities for supplying the St John and Halifax markets with grain and other agricultural produce to be brought from Upper Canada." These, Sir, are specimens of the arguments which have caused the people of this Island to regard Confederation as a project which would ruin them. Imagine, Mr Speaker, the farmers of the far West, by means of this railway supplying the markets of St John and Halifax with grain and other agricultural produce "—potatoes!—to the prejudice of the people of Prince Edward Island. To the markets of Upper Canada the prices of grain, and other agricultural products