

and power are not to be despised in the Fenians, whose views are sympathized in by the Americans, and what does he advise us to do in the matter? Does he advise us to stand by our country and our flag? No, he desires us to lay down our weapons; he tells us it is too late that we cannot defend ourselves, and that we are at the mercy of the enemy. His statements are the strongest argument that can be adduced in favour of a Union of the Colonies—they prove that the time is at hand for this measure, and that no time is to be lost. He speaks about putting on a blue-jacket and assisting in our defence; I consider that a man holding such sentiments as his would be dangerous in such a position, for he has been endeavoring to excite a rebellion throughout the country, telling the people that they cannot defend themselves, that our connection with the mother country is unsafe, and that at this moment our better course is to lay down our arms on the approach of an enemy. He tells us that those who advocate the Union now will not be the men who will go to Canada, and the meaning of his letter seems to be that we must wait for him; only bring him back to power and he will not trouble himself to enquire whether he has been elected on this question or not. He will be the first man to advocate the Union when he returns to office and position. I am inclined to believe that all the opposition on this question are in favour of Union, and that they oppose it because they cannot avail themselves of the highest positions. Mr. Howe opens his second letter by saying "my advice has not been taken"; we have taken the advice he gave us formerly as to a Union of the Colonies, but how could his more recent advice be taken when it is well known that he is writing disloyal letters injurious to the Province. I say, sir, that we have seen enough of this gentleman to know that he has broken faith on every public question, and that everything he can say must be received with a large amount of doubt. When in days gone by he advocated Union, did he ask for an appeal to the people? No, the Legislature was to decide the question, and yet he tells us it is unconstitutional to take such a course. That is the position which this gentleman has assumed. He declared some time ago that Halifax would not be safe without connection with Canada by rail; now he tells us that Canada is only a source of weakness. These are inconsistencies which no man can reconcile. Again he agreed that Nova Scotia should build three-and-a-half twelfths of the whole cost of the Intercolonial Railway. We are now to get the Railway built for one-twelfth, and yet he comes out in opposition to the whole thing.

Reference has been made to the recent election in the county of Lunenburg; all I can say is that the result proves to my mind that there is a large majority of the people in favour of Confederation. The government were perfectly indifferent to the election, and it was only the day previous to the nomination that, to my great surprise, I received a telegram stating that the Provincial Secretary was coming down. All

the opposition made most strenuous efforts; they came down and made no secret that they intended to buy the county. Their friends said at a caucus that they could not carry the county on the issue of Confederation, for the people were largely in favour of it. They then resorted to every subterfuge to win the election. The result proves that of 3200 voters only 1300 were in favour of Mr. Hebb. The School Bill was the question that settled the election. I had not taken any part in the affair, until I saw that the hon. member for Richmond had come down. I did not feel inclined to take any active part because we had no man up. There were two men actually on the same side. I preferred Mr. Zwicker, however, because he declared himself for progress; but on Nomination Day he declared against the School Bill and Confederation. He spoke, then, however, under excitement, and his card led us to believe he was not as likely to oppose all measures of improvement and progress as Mr. Hebb. He was, therefore, in some respects preferable to the latter. We went into the township of Chester where the question of Confederation was raised and discussed. The day before Nomination Day we had a meeting in the town, which lasted till a very late hour. And what was the result at every polling place? The friends of the Quebec scheme were two to one. That was the only township where the scheme was put to the people. I am no new convert to Union; but from the first hour it has been before the people I have been in favor of it. I believe in all sincerity, after the consideration I have given the subject, that our future prosperity depends largely on the issue of the present movement. I would be willing to go back to-morrow to my own county on this question, but I want to have the same people that sent me here pass on my acts. I wish to have the same franchise that returned me to the Assembly. The leading minds in the county of Lunenburg are in favor of Confederation. Have you seen more than a single petition against the scheme from my people? There is one purporting to be signed by 111 persons, but any one who reviews it will see that the majority of the names are all written by one or two persons, and evidently at the same time. They had to scour the whole county, too, before they got the names they have to this document. Every man who got up the petition is known to be hostile to the School Bill. This is the way the House is led to believe that the people are opposed to Confederation. It is the easiest thing in the world to get people to sign petitions; that everybody knows.

I have heard with much regret the expressions that some gentlemen have been using on the floor as well as in the lobby of the House of Assembly. I could hardly control my feelings when I listened to the disloyal statements of some gentlemen in reference to the Queen and the representative of her Majesty in this Province. They have been positively insulting to Her Majesty and the 'Hero of Kara.' Then we are told it is better to be annexed to the United States than to unite with Canada. What