

questions of this character, I, for one, am ready to yield the most respectful deference to this high authority. The desire of Her Majesty's Government for an union of the Colonies has received the most emphatic expression that could be given to it—it has been declared in three consecutive speeches from the Throne. Now, I ask this House, is there a colony under the crown that has greater reason to show deference to the just wishes of the British Government than the province of Nova Scotia? Sir, do I require to point to the evidences of Imperial solicitude for our safety and welfare that are before everybody's eyes? Walk out some fine morning and view the fortifications of this city, and get, as you can only get, an imperfect estimate of the immense treasure Great Britain has spent for the protection of this people. Visit that citadel, under whose shadow even now our slumbers are undisturbed—visit Point Pleasant, George's Island, and a half dozen other places I could name. Extend your wanderings to the north end of of this city, and see those magnificent structures—the Wellington Barracks,—visit the Ordnance and Dockyards—and then you will have only a very faint idea of the amount of treasure Great Britain has lavished upon us. How much does the army, supported here for our protection, spend among us? In a few short weeks the harbor of Halifax will be alive with the wooden walls of England. Her brave tars will be on the spot to protect our interests, and leave their last dollar with our people. Should these things be forgotten or winked out of sight at the present time?

But, sir, it is not alone in this way Great Britain has shown us favor. She has not only done every thing for our protection and security, but she has given us the entire control of our local affairs—Responsible Government, and every liberty we enjoy having been got for the asking. Therefore, sir, as a Nova Scotian, I am ready to yield that deference to the wishes of the Imperial Government they have a right to expect. Their past treatment of this province is a guarantee that they desire to improve our condition by union. I have no hesitation in saying, that of all the dependencies of the Crown, Nova Scotia should be one of the most disposed to yield a deferential ear to Imperial counsels.

It may be said, sir, that my practice is inconsistent with my professions—that for the last eighteen months I have been opposing the policy of the British Government. I deny the imputation. I have never opposed that policy—on the contrary, I have advocated it. I consider there are only two classes in the Provinces who are in antagonism to the Imperial policy: those who are opposed to all union, and those, unwittingly so, yet equally hostile to that policy, who would force a scheme of union on the Maritime Provinces, which its opponents believe to be unjust, and its supporters know to be obnoxious to the great body of the people. Against that scheme public opinion has unmistakably pronounced, and if forced upon us the result will be the opposite to that desired. The British Government have no especial partiality for the Quebec scheme; they desire an equitable union of British America, and instead of opposing, I have always advocated such an union.

There are one or two other matters to which

I shall allude before turning my attention to the question I intend to ask. A few days ago this House went through all the solemn forms of a Conference with the other branch of the Legislature on a subject, the importance of which is admitted by everyone—I allude to the protection of our Fisheries. What was the result of the deliberations of the joint committee of both Houses on that occasion?—What means did they suggest for that great service? Their report has been placed on our table, and what does it advise? An humble petition to the Queen's Government, praying for assistance. In our necessities we rush to the Colonial Office for aid and protection, and yet there are those among us who deny any reciprocal duty on our part—any obligation even to listen respectfully to the wishes of British Ministers. We know that although we may buy a blockade runner, and vote a few thousand dollars for the service, our Fisheries can have no adequate protection if England refuses us her aid. Now, I ask, is it reasonable to expect a favorable answer to our petition if we refuse to comply, at such an important period in our history, with the request of Her Majesty's Government?

Mr. Speaker, there is another subject to which I must refer, because its bearing on the question of Colonial Union is too palpable to escape the commonest observation. Every one will admit that the clouds impending over our political horizon at the present time may justly excite the most serious apprehensions. An organization, at first regarded with contempt, has been called into existence on this continent which has lately assumed very formidable dimensions—I mean the Fenian Brotherhood. A part of the avowed policy of this organization is the severance of the connection between these Colonies and Great Britain. The termination of the civil war in the United States has thrown loose on that country nearly half a million of daring and reckless men, with a taste for the license and excitement of military life, and a disrelish of the pursuits of peace. These men, from whom the Fenian recruits are chiefly drawn, are ready to embark in the most lawless and hazardous enterprises. The organization extends throughout the Northern and Western States, and boasts of having at its command any number of men and any amount of money for operations against the British Empire, which it seeks to dismember. It is not concealed that the vulnerable point through which this object to be attained is British America. Now, sir, perhaps this House will be astonished to learn that in the published platform of the Fenian organization, it is laid down as a leading object and duty of that body to prevent the consolidation of British power on this continent by the proposed union of these Provinces under one government. This fact has only come to my knowledge within a few weeks. I repeat, sir, it is laid down in the platform of the Fenian body as the paramount duty of every Fenian either in the United States or the British Provinces, to oppose and frustrate any union among us. Therefore, I say that the man who now opposes union—I don't mean the Quebec scheme—but who sets his face against all union actually endorses the leading principle of Fenianism! I do not believe there are a dozen men in Nova Scotia who would knowingly occupy this position, and I feel confident that when this fact is understood it will do much to popularize the Union sentiment in this Province, whose loyalty is prover-