

vantages,—as giving a well founded prospect of improved administration and increased prosperity.”

What are the matters tending to the prosperity of the country? The improvement of trade and commerce, a large market for the produce of the country. And can it be said that Confederation will increase our market? Will anyone say that we will buy a barrel of flour more from Canada unless a discriminating duty is imposed? Will Canada buy any more fish or coal under Confederation? Can it be said that our productions will be allowed to enter Canada upon terms more favorable than those imposed on American articles? I do not give the Canadians credit for so much love for us. We may have free trade between the Provinces without a political union. It can be effected through our various governments. Would any one hazard a statement of the reverse in the face of the evidence upon our journals? I have entertained some doubts as to whether free trade in manufactures is at present desirable. There are manufactures growing up here which are now so weak as to require legislative aid; and to bring them into competition with the more advanced manufactures of Canada would be to ruin those who have embarked their capital in such enterprises among us; but if it should prove desirable I would throw no obstacle in the way. Then, is it necessary to have the Union to assimilate our currencies? No one will hazard such a statement. The effort has never been made; and until it fails, I will not admit the argument drawn in favor of a political union. It would be impossible to assimilate our currencies with that of the United States, and with the States we have a hundred commercial transactions for one with Canada.—Then comes the question of postage. Our postal system is now nearly the same, the only difference being, that while in Nova Scotia newspapers pass free, in Canada there is a tax which impedes circulation. The question of the usury laws has been brought here for discussion, but I would suggest that if we are to have Confederation we need not discuss the subject,—in Canada the rate of interest is much higher than with us, in some instances as high as from eight to nine per cent. Then there is the question of the tariff; there may be no great difficulty on this subject if Canada is willing to suffer such a loss of revenue as would arise from striking off her twenty per cent duties.—In that case there could be no difficulty in assimilating our tariffs, and this it will be remembered was one of the conditions in the arrangements of 1862. Much has been said about the Intercolonial Railway,—this has been the grand lever used to operate on the people. We are told that we can have no railway unless we confederate, but looking at the necessities of Canada—at the position she would be in if difficulties arose, ice-locked for six months in the year, we find how essential it is to her independence. While these are the facts so little loyal sentiment is there among the public men of Canada that they will not make the effort to secure that road, but will run the risk of severance from the British Empire while using it as a lever to bring about Confederation. Then comes the question of defence—we are told we cannot defend ourselves unless Confederated. I admit the potency of the argument in refer-

ence to the Intercolonial Railway as a means of defence, and I believe that that road will be exceedingly useful in time of war, but it might be cut in two or three places in the event of hostilities. Any one reading the history of Sherman's campaign knows how easy it is to cut a railway, and how easily these Provinces could be separated.

The Pro. Sec. read a speech delivered by me on a former occasion in reference to the question of defence and I am prepared to reiterate the same sentiments to day. My mode would be this: I would have the people contribute liberally pound for pound with Canada, or any other portion of the Empire, for the protection of our homes, I would pay that amount into the Imperial treasury and would charge the Imperial government with the defence. I would be willing to have this levied as a tax per head or a percentage on our revenue. If it be true, and I believe it is, that the British government intend to throw upon Canada the expense of her fortifications and of her gunboats for the lakes, here will be an enormous amount that we must pay into the Canadian exchanges, not for our defence but for theirs. The Prov. Sec. referred on a previous day to my friend Mr. Howe, and to the opinions that he uttered in England in advocating the Intercolonial Railway,—that gentleman did express strong opinions, but they were not so much on the subject of the union of the Colonies as in connection with that railway. Taking advantage of the apprehension existing in connection with the Trent affair, Messrs. Howe and Tilley used every argument they could urge. I do not hold myself responsible for every opinion expressed upon these matters and I may perhaps admit that Mr. Howe has committed mistake almost as grave as those of the Provincial Secretary himself. In reference to the contribution from the treasury for defence, do not let me be misunderstood as to the mode in which the tax should be levied. By the consent of our own Parliament, responsible to our own people, we should contribute such an amount as the country could afford. What do we require for defence? It is said that as we are now situated we cannot march a militiaman from one Province to another. Then all that is required in case of an attack is an authority by which we can all reach other. Do we not now see all British America armed to the teeth and prepared for the conflict without Confederation? Then there is this difficulty in the way. When we are confederated the Commander-in-Chief would have his head-quarters at Ottawa; and we will find that if Canada is attacked and these Provinces threatened, the Executive Government at Ottawa will naturally prefer the protection of their own homesteads to our security, and will withdraw our men for their defence. What did we hear some of the Canadian statesmen say some time ago? One of them said, “Look down at the Maritime Provinces; they have 30,000 sailors to man our gunboats.” Another repeated the remark; but it never occurred to them that we might also be threatened with attack, and that it might become necessary to send down some of the yeomanry of the West in exchange for our seamen. Their idea seemed selfish and narrow and limited only to the defence of their own country at our expense. It is said that Confederation will make us much more powerful