recently. I, Mr Chairman, hope ere long to see Railroads connecting those Provinces from Halifax to Canada and vice versa; the money expended in building them will in many opinions be judicious, inasmuch as they would open up vast districts of woodland, and render them easily accessible to immigrants. The resources of the neighboring Provinces are boundless. In Nova Scotia, especially, Iron, Coal, and Limestone, are to be found in inexhaustible quantities. In New Brunswick, in addition to minerals, there are valuable forests and extensive districts of land suitable for cultivation. In those Provinces are noble Harbors open all the year round, and, Sir, I cannot believe that the day is far distant, when by means of the railroads, of which I have spoken, the trade of Canada will find its outlet during a great portion of the year in the Harbors of St John, and Halifax. I should have been better pleased, Sir, had the resolution before you proposed a Union of all the British Provinces on the Atlantic Board. Such a Union I consider, must come sooner or later, and I trust the Union of the maritime Provinces will prove the first step towards it. Who can ever estimate the commercial greatness which these depend-encies of Great Britain are destined to attain? Less than a century ago, the entire exports of Great Britain did not exceed $80,000,000. The exports of Canada alone, for 1863, reached more than half this amount. At the time of the accession of Queen Anne, the exports of Great Britain were less by one-fourth than the exports of Canada for 1863. Burke, the friend and advocate of the British Colonies, employed his eloquence to portray the commercial growth, which during a little time, those of the North American Colonies of his day, now included in the neighboring Republic, had attained. He pictured them in 1704, men, in a commercial sense, utterly insignificant—of Countries which served for little more than to amuse with stories of savage life and unsouth manners. In 1770, he saw them possessed of a Commerce equal to that which seventy years previously, had made England the envy of the world. The possessions of the Colonies, after they attained their independence, was far greater than that which had excited the wonder of Burke. Mr Chairman, at this day, British North America comprises a larger territory than was possessed by the Revolted Colonies in 1776, larger than the United States now possess, and although much of this territory must necessarily remain sterile, so far as agriculture is concerned, it is nevertheless valuable. The population of Canada, New Brunswick Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, is greater than was that of the Revolted Colonies at the date of their independence. Our mines and minerals and forests are as valuable as were theirs. We have magnificent rivers and lakes, connecting the Atlantic with the far West. Our people are a hardy race, characterized by determination of character, and fitted to overcome those obstacles which are caused by the nature of our climate, which however, is not more severe than in portions of Germany, of Sweden, of Norway, or of Russia. We possess all the elements essential to the formation of a great and powerful people. Why should we not advance towards greatness in something like the same ratio as did the Revolted Colonies? The manufactures of England, are the chief source of her wealth. Those who have travelled through that Country, are aware, that it is little other than a great workshop, from which a great portion of the world is supplied. Why should not the people of British America have their manufactures? They have iron, and coal, and timber, why should they not turn them to account? Why should they depend upon England for articles manufactured from iron? I can see no reason why. Food is more easily obtained in the Colonies than in England, and after all, Mr Chairman, the question of labor resolves itself into bread and butter. It is well known to this Committee, that the people of New England, before the Reciprocity Treaty was in existence, carried coal and iron and grindstones, from Nova Scotia to the United States, manufactured them and brought them back to us, that we bought them and notwithstanding the manufactures and paying the duties, and a double transport, they became rich. Mr Chairman, I am satisfied that Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, will be united, and that, after the example of these Revolted Colonies, they will become a great and wealthy people. I desire that this my native Island may share their greatness, and not remain, as at present, the sole of unseemly contrasts, which prevent all useful logis-

lation. In conclusion, Mr Chairman, the question under discussion is one of great importance to our people, and it is proper that it should be fully considered, that the matter should be fully discussed, and notwithstanding my individual opinions, I shall not be prepared to vote for a Union, until after they shall have been consulted, and the question discussed among them; but, Sir, this House is not called upon to come to any such vote. The question before the Committee is, shall we send delegates to confer with the delegates from the other Provinces, on the expediency of a Union, and, whatever may be the opinions of hon. members—however much they may be opposed to the proposed Union—common courtesy requires us to send delegates as proposed by the resolution before you.

Hon. Mr COLES.—Mr Chairman, this is a subject which, as the hon. Col. Secretary has justly remarked, is not a party question; but I presume it will be like other questions, there will be a party in its favor, and a party opposed to it. The hon. member who last spoke, hinted that there is no security of property in this Colony. Now, Sir, I believe there never was a measure introduced into this Legislature so calculated to interfere with the rights of property as the Bill on the Land Question, submitted this morning by the hon. leader of the Government. It is only a piece of political clap-trap. The subject of the war in the neighboring States has been introduced into this debate, and we have been told that when it terminates, a host of mercenaries will be ready to rush in upon these Colonies. I entertain no fears on this ground, for I have every confidence in the power of Great Britain to defend her possessions against the combined force of either the Northern or Southern States. The hon. leader of the Government said that he could not support a resolution similar to those passed in the adjoining Provinces, viz that delegates should be appointed to arrange a preliminary plan in regard to Union. I concur with the hon. member in this view of the subject; we ought first to consider whether a union at all is desirable. I hold my own opinions respecting a union of the Colonies. I have long thought that these Provinces ought to have more influence at the Colonial Office. This Island as also the other Colonies have labored under great disadvantage in this respect—a disadvantage which a union of the whole would probably have removed. Still it does not appear to me that great benefit would result from a union of the three maritime Provinces. We have been making progress, small as our Colony is. I hold in my hand an order of the date of 1790, for £1, which is a fair specimen of our currency at that time. Now we have two or three Banks, and an extensive trade; so I think we better work along with our separate government, until it is thought that "the time has arrived" to consummate a federal union of the whole of British America, allowing each Colony to retain its own Legislature. If this could be effected with the good will of the Home Government—Britain acting towards us in a friendly and paternal manner, just as a father does with a son setting up for himself—it might be well. The new government might be either a monarchy or a republic, but I, for my part, would prefer a monarchy. All the Colonies united from Newfoundland to Columbia, would be one of the most powerful governments on the face of the earth; but with only Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and this Island united, we would still be looked down upon by our neighbors. I do not think the people of this Island would agree to such a union as is proposed; if they would consent to a change at all, I believe they would desire a union that would place the Colonies in a position that would give them some weight among the powers that be. As to religious strife here being an argument in favor of our union which the other Colonies, differ from the hon. Colonial Secretary. If people are disposed to be contentious in regard to creeds, union with another body of men will not prevent it. In fact, I believe that the religious strife which exists in this Island was an infection from the other Provinces. It occurs to me that this union delegation will be like the pig on the land question; it will cost several hundred pounds and produce nothing. I do not mean that I shall oppose the motion for the appointment of delegates, but I would prefer taking a higher ground than a legislative union of the three maritime Provinces. We might gain in some points by such a union, yet the other Colonies have a heavy debt, and I am inclined to believe that