

"How often have we heard that our republican neighbors were going to overrun the Provinces. They have attempted it once or twice, but have always been beaten out, and I do not hesitate to say that the British American over whom the old flag flies, are able to defend every inch of their territory, even though Her Majesty's troops were withdrawn."

So much then for Mr. Howe, and now let us enquire what are we to obtain from a Union of the colonies. It is hardly worth while detaining the house on this branch of the subject, for it has been so very amply discussed; but let me say that this union will give us commercial greatness, political status, social distinction, and military power. I will not say we are going all at once to become a great Empire, to be able to compete with the great nation close to us—but let us unite these colonies, consolidate their strength and resources, and we start fair for all the greatness which the Anglo-Saxon race is sure to attain when it has the means and the opportunity. We start with a larger population than the United States had when their national existence began, with a country far in advance of those States at the time of their separation, in all the elements of national prosperity and greatness. We will have direct railway communication with the whole country behind us, as soon as the political union is consummated. The hon. member for Yarmouth says that we cannot have extensive commercial relations with Canada, and that union will give no impulse to our commercial enterprise, and he scouted the idea that we can sustain manufacturing establishments. Why should we not have manufactures? He says we have not the population. True, I reply, and whilst we remain isolated as at present—whilst we have had only a population of 330,000 people, he is quite right to say we cannot rise above our present condition. No one knows better than he that a large manufactory in Halifax or Yarmouth of any particular article could supply the Province. We can afford no inducements to men of large capital to expend their money in developing our resources. Give us, however, the population of four millions that union will give, strike down the hostile tariffs that now stand like a Chinese wall between the Provinces, and you have the market for manufactures which is now wanting to stimulate enterprise. The hon. member says we have not the means or resources. Then again I say the hon. member's knowledge of this country should have prevented him making this assertion. If there is a country in the world of equal dimensions, that by virtue of its geographical position and natural resources, has greater facilities for commerce and manufactures, I have yet to learn where it is? You have immense tracts of the finest quality of coal at the pit's mouth, you have mines of iron, and alongside them again you have the lime required to convert iron to useful purposes. Only give facilities for making these resources productive, and what portion of the Union will develop itself more rapidly than Nova Scotia? This Province has rapidly developed her resources notwithstanding the disadvantageous position in which she is placed; her mines of coal and iron have made progress, and her commercial progress bears witness to the

energy of the people, but give us the demand that the wants of four millions of people will create, and she will increase to a remarkable degree in all the elements of prosperity. What has made Massachusetts the great manufacturing state it is? That the cotton of New Orleans comes to be converted into cloth—that the iron of Pennsylvania comes to be converted into cutlery in the manufactories of Boston. Why can Massachusetts supply manufactures to the whole Union? Because the hostile tariffs meet her productions at every state boundary. Why should not Halifax be the Boston of British North America?—Why should not the cotton of New Orleans be manufactured in this city, and supplied to every town in the Confederacy? Why should not tobacco be made, and sugar refined here as well as in Boston? No reason in the world is there why it should not be so, except that we have no market, no population, fenced in as we are by the hostile tariffs of every surrounding country. Supposing each of the United States had remained isolated and separate communities, that each state had preserved its own revenue and trade lessens, in what position would they be in now?—Weak, insignificant communities, instead of component parts of one of the strongest and proudest nations of the world. I ask then, is it not our duty to adopt this measure. If our trade shall be enlarged and wealth will be increased, then it is an answer to all the story we have heard about taxation. The people have been told time and again until they began to believe it is so—that they are going to be taxed to pay the debt of Canada. There is no foundation for such a belief, but suppose I assume for the sake of argument that the statement is partially true, and that instead of paying 10 we shall pay 15 or 17 per cent; but if our commerce prosper as largely as I have predicted, then I ask the hon. member for Yarmouth whether the mere trifle of increased duty should stand in the way, when compared with the progress that this country will make in all the elements of productive industry. It is not many years since the construction of railways was commenced in this country, and I remember how many persons said they were to be our ruin. Mr. Howe was going to swamp us.—Our taxation was to be doubled. And a great many persons thought that if our duties were largely raised we would be ruined beyond redemption. I dare say the hon. member for Yarmouth did a great deal to create the idea throughout the country, for he was then as now opposed to every progressive measure.—We built the Railways and the croakers have turned out false prophecy. Our duties have been doubled, and I will undertake to say that there is not a man in the House who will say that we are not now better able to pay our increased duties than we were to pay the lesser duty ten years ago. This is an illustration of what may be the result of the Union with the British North American Colonies. It gives us room and expansion—it gives us what population will always afford; and everything that promotes the wealth of a country, and while we have these no fear of taxation ruining us or cramping our