

justify the United States in giving notice of the termination of the convention. My lords, it was not to be expected that the United States should submit passively to such acts of violence without availing themselves of all the means of repression within their power."

An act then which seems to strike horror into the mind of Colonial statesmen appears to British statesmen as merely a necessary means of self-protection. Mr. Cardwell, on the 23rd March, informing the British Parliament of the force to be employed on the lakes, says:

"Since I came into the House I have received from the noble lord the Governor-General of Canada (Lord Monck) a despatch which confirms the agreeable reports which had already reached us through the ordinary channels of intelligence. He informs me that he has received a telegraphic despatch from Mr. Burnley, at Washington, to this effect:—'The Secretary of State informs me that his government intends to withdraw the notice for the abrogation of the Treaty of 1817 (cheers), and the passport system will cease immediately.' (Renewed cheers.) Sir, I refer to that announcement with feelings of the greatest pleasure; and now I trust we may proceed to discuss the important practical question which is before us in no spirit of panic, but in that just spirit which becomes the consideration of what is due to the honour and interests of our country, and which has characterized the mode in which the proposal has been considered by the house. (Hear, hear.) Because you are on friendly terms with the American Government, because you hope that the friendly spirit which animates you is reciprocated by them, and because you are confident that two mighty nations of one blood, one origin and one language are united by ties which should forever forbid the possibility of bloodshed between them,—those considerations do not render it the less necessary that you should temperately consider the nature of your defences, and that you should be dependent for your safety only upon the power of your own country."

Lord Palmerston also says:

"Many gentlemen have argued this question as if there was a general impression and belief that war with the United States was imminent, and that this proposal of ours was for the purpose of meeting a sudden danger which we apprehended to be hanging over us. Now, I think there is no danger of war with America. Nothing that has recently passed indicates any hostile disposition on the part of the United States towards us, and, therefore, I do not base this motion on the ground that we expect war to take place between this country and America."

The view taken by British statesmen must be felt to be perfectly correct by every dispassionate man—that it was necessary for the United States, in view of raids across the frontier, the capture of steamers, the robbing of banks, the burning of hotels, to take some precautionary measures for self-protection, which should not be considered indicative of hostilities with Britain.

It has been argued that we are so small a territory, that we should endeavour to unite with some larger country, in order to enlarge our scope for action. I cannot understand why people who enjoy all the privileges, rights, and immunities of the British Empire, should desire to form any other connection in order that they may have greater room and scope. I cannot see how any connection that we can form with other territory can increase the relative conjunctions of Nova Scotia to the British Empire.

Turn to the American States, and contrast the size of Nova Scotia with some States there, and from which we have heard no talk of forming any Union with any other state, in order to increase their importance in the "Union." There are the

States of New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland, &c.—all very much smaller in area than Nova Scotia, and yet from these we hear of no Union being formed among them, in order that the citizens may have more area or room for development. Nova Scotia contains 20,426 square miles; New Hampshire 9,280; Vermont 9,056; Connecticut 4,780; Massachusetts, that occupies so conspicuous a position in the American nation, 7,800. Yet Nova Scotia, that our statesmen look down upon with contempt, is larger than any two other States I have named; and where we find the Americans perfectly satisfied with the proportions these States occupy in the American nation, we should, also, be content, that whilst we are Nova Scotians we are, at the same time, citizens of the British Empire, with all the room and scope which it affords for development.

Again it is contended we have not population sufficient to give us an importance. Whilst those who advocate Confederation, have not shown that the scheme will of itself increase our population, they seem to forget that our Province is very much younger than those American States with whose condition they contrast ours. All we require is a little time, as our growth is more rapid now than theirs. I have examined the census returns of eighteen States from Maine Southward, and the average rate of increase for ten years is 16 7-10, while the increase of Nova Scotia in the same period was 19 9-10, so that if those gentlemen will have a little patience, our population will become sufficiently numerous.

It seems, however, the determination of the Prov. Secretary; that we shall not remain in our present happy and prosperous condition, that nothing short of a Union with some other province will satisfy him. When last year he introduced his resolution for a convention to consider the Union of the Maritime provinces, but little importance was attached to it, as it was not likely to lead to any practical result; but when it became known that the convention had arranged a Union of the whole British North American Colonies, and when the terms of the proposed Union were made public, the province was convulsed from centre to circumference; men at once set about petitioning this Legislature, and but for the opinion which got abroad that the Delegates had abandoned the scheme, your table would have been covered with petitions. So strong was public opinion found to be against the Quebec arrangement, that the Pro. Secretary has not had the courage and the manliness to carry it out, although bound in all faith to the other Provinces to make the attempt. When I consider the position of our delegates, I am reminded of the fable of the fellows who sold a "bearskin" before they had killed the bear, which so happily illustrates the case that I shall trouble the House with it.

Five fellows, needing funds and bold,

A bearskin to a furrier sold,

Of which the bear was living still,

But which they presently would kill—

At least they said they would.

And if their word was good.