have 85,000 Roman Catholic, the majority of them Irish, of the extreme Ultramontane stamp, and we have 45,000 Protestants, many of whom are Orangemen, and many the sons of Orangemen, who will never submit to be subject Roman Catholics. If the Island were united, as the neighbouring Provinces are, our presently population would have a great majority of Popish supremacy than they have at present, religious animosities would be weakened, and great good would be the consequence. Another result of such union would be the establishment of uniform currency, an uniform Tariff, a common Legislature, and a common Judiciary. The deliberation of the Legislature of the United Provinces, upon our Island matters, would be more disinterested, more liberal, and enlightened, than we can ever expect from our little Legislature constituted as at present. The Judges who now preside in our Courts, have practised for many years, at our Bar, and are acquainted with almost every suitor who comes into Court. It occasionally happens that they are disqualified to try actions brought, in consequence of their having been employed as Attorney or Counsel in such actions, and, Sir, although their impartiality and integrity have never been questioned, in my opinion, they cannot but partake of the prejudices of the little community in which they have so long lived. I would ask, Sir, what has been the chief subject of legislation in this House during the past half century? The Land Question,—the Land Tenures—conflicts between Landlords and Tenants, and, Sir, when proprietors of land in this Island, have, at the Colonial Office, objected to Bills passed in this House, and urged that such Bills were passed by Tenants to the prejudice of their Landlords, is it not reasonable to suppose that their objections have carried with them an influence, attributable chiefly to the character of the legislature. I can readily understand, that Bills passed by our Legislature, as at present constituted, would, if opposed by the Proprietors, be disallowed, which, should they be enacted by a Legislature such as we shall have, in the event of a union, would be confirmed by the Sovereign in the face of greater opposition. The people of this Island should ask themselves these questions. In the event of a union will they be called upon to pay more in the shape of taxes than they pay at present? If so will they derive more than corresponding benefits? It must be evident to every member of this Committee, that the farmers of this Island shall have better Roads, Bridges and Wharves, better accomodation for shipping their produce, better communication by means of steamers over our rivers, and with the other Provinces, and better markets than they possess at present, they will be able to pay a moderately increased taxation with greater ease than they pay the lesser now exacted from them. The farmers may rest assured that a union with the adjoining Provinces would not cause their lands to yield less than they yield at present. Would the circumstances of our being united cause capital to be invested in this Island? If so, it is for our interest that we should be united. The chief exports of this Island are Ships and Agricultural Produce—Oats. I, Mr. Chairman, cannot regard the future of this Island as being as bright, or as promising as many consider it. The past year, it is true, has been one of unexampled prosperity. But do we not owe this to the fact, that shipbuilding, during the year just past, has been carried on on a very extensive scale? But, Mr. Chairman, is it not a fact that, shipbuilding is a most precarious business, and that, whether it shall continue profitable or otherwise, it must cease on an early period, when the Ship is very near, when materials for the construction of ships will not be found on the Island? Already our shipbuilders import materials from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The report of Mr. Wightman has shown us that only five cent of the tenantry of this Island do not produce from their farms a sufficiency of food. How do these people procure the necessaries of life? In answer to the enquiry, our shipbuilding demands. What will become of such persons when shipbuilding must cease, or be carried on to this Island when our forests shall have entirely disappeared? They must emigrate—or depend upon the seller upon the desertion. We have during the year just passed exported from this Island about 1,800,000 bushels of oats, for which our farmers received remunerative prices. The demand in the United States, consequent upon the war, had greatly increased the value of oats. But this happy war must come to an end. The termination of the American Reciprocity Treaty, we may look for, and should this event occur during the present year, the consequence will be, that the Canadian Provinces will be flooded with American produce, and the Canadian market for our oats and the Normal market for our Ships, will be closed. It is very low. Mr Chairman—Many persons consider the enormous crops of oats during the past year as a proof of agricultural prosperity, they look upon the large exports of oats, and the high prices which have been realized during the past three or four years—as facts which evidence that, taxated by the high prices which we have commanded during the past three or four years—our farmers have grown, then, to the great injury of their land. It is well known, that land yield, will not yield wheat or barley, will give good oats, and the oats are very exhausting crop. Where, oats have been grown upon the same land several years in succession, without manure, as they generally have been in this Island, the result must necessarily be the complete exhaustion of the soil. Mr. Chairman—I, who pride themselves upon the agricultural prosperity of this Island at the present time, should not forget that of the 1,800,000 bushels of oats exported, at least 800,000 would be required to pay for the bread stuffs imported—for, the more than 40,000 barrels of flour brought into the Colony in 1863. Not only are the lands of the great majority of our farmers becoming exhausted by injudicious cropping, they are also fast being denuded of materials necessarily required for fuel and fencing. Many farms are now destitute of both. Substitutes for fence poles may be found in hedges and dykes; and these the farmers can themselves construct; but, when firewood shall have disappeared, coal will have to be purchased, and when the agricultural life of this Island shall be necessitated to pay for coal, and so haul it from the shores on the coast to their farms in the interior—when this shall have no more new land—rich in the mould formed by decayed leaves or fertilised by the ashes obtained from wood burnt in the process of clearing, to fall back upon—when manure will be obtained in order to render productive the lands which over-cropping have exhausted; and when hedges will have to be planted, and dykes constructed, does still Lake portions of Prince Edward Island be far less prosperous than they are at present. Add to this, the evil resulting from the inhabitants being divided into two factions, each regarding the other with animosity. Under such circumstances, Mr. Chairman, I feel that it is left to ourselves, we shall share the fate of the Kilkenny Cats. We have no mines, no minerals, no quarries of marble, no extensive forests. Our dependence, ultimately must be solely upon our Agriculture, and our Fisheries. We develope these, we require capital. Would a Union with the other Provinces, cause capital to be invested in this Island? I think, Mr. Chairman, it would. This, I repeat, is a very important consideration. If it can be shown that one result of a union would be, that persons in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would employ capital in this Island, in farming and fishing, it is clearly our interest that we should assist in the proposed Union. The Railroads of Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, will soon connect our Island, very closely with the commercial capitals of those Provinces. Our lands are more easily cultivated than are those of either Province, and we can quote as produce, as the land of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, the alluvial lands of those Provinces extended under Dykes. We are the last in the British Provinces. Could they choose, I think it clearly be decided that if this Island were a portion of the Union, under a common Legislature, in which the people of the adjoining Provinces had confidence, and which would afford a guarantee for uniformity in taxation, and the protection of property, we should find capital invested in this Island. I, Mr. Chairman, who will never be in favor of a Union, unless it can be shown that it will be of very little, community, long as we have been, a political and religious Pariah. Have you, Mr. Chairman, that I when contrasted with many of the leading politicians of Nova Scotia, I am a very Pariah. Sir, I have been elected to represent the Tory party in this House, I have been elected by the Tory Protestants of the Colony, I have come and their taxation excessive. Are we to hazard a very little in advance, on our part. The amount of that risk is not such as should operate, any member. Union have contributed, Europe, and doing so have created a demand, is true. But in this case the Railroads are a

have a Union with the Provinces, I think, Mr. Chairman, that we should be able to pay a moderate increase of taxation, and that we should be able to pay a moderate increase of taxation, and that we should be able to pay a moderate increase of taxation, and