rendered efficient, of what service would they be unless they were available for the defence of the frontiers of Canada or of New Brunswick? That our sons would be required to shoulder arms and march to the frontiers of Canada has been urged as an argument against Confederation. This Island is of no importance in a military point of view. It will never be a battle field. A Gunboat or a Privateer might enter into any one of our numerous harbors do a great deal of mischief and depart before our defenders could be mustered. Unless under a general organization our Militia will necessarily be useless. I am not aware, Sir, that I am the most inefficient officer in the service, although I have held a commission for a quarter of a century, and have never seen the company to which I am supposed to be attached. Although opposed to spending money uselessly upon our Militia, I am in favor of training every man in the Provinces capable of bearing arms, provided such training be conducted under a general organization, believing that readiness on our part for defence would be our best protection against invasion. The fourth resolution reads thus:—

"4. *Resolved*, That a Federal Union of British North America, based upon the Resolutions adopted by the Conference of Delegates from the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, held in the City of Quebec, 10th October, 1864, as the basis of a proposed Confederation of these Provinces and Colonies, would, among other advantages, promote the developement of the trade and manufacturing capabilities of these Provinces and Colonies, and advance the general prosperity, by inducing the substitution of a Customs Tariff, uniform and common to the Confederation, in lieu of the various Tariffs now in force in the several Provinces and Colonies.

The most effectual means of advancing our prosperity would be found in a Union, such as is proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference. A great deal has been said and written on the subject of the proposed Confederation by our Island statesmen, who have told the people of the disastrous effects the Union would exert upon our trade and manufactures. If the gentlemen, to whom I allude, have not instructed, they have, at least, amused the more intelligent of their hearers and readers. It is true, Sir, that our trade is chiefly in agricultural produce, that our manufactures are few, and that there are physical disabilities which will prevent us from becoming a great manufacturing country. For five months in the year we are cut off from communication with our neighbors, yet, Sir, our manufactures are capable of expansion, and under Union they would expand. At present the manufacturers of Leather and of Cloth are obliged to limit their operations. If they manufacture more than they can sell in this little Island they have to export, subject to a heavy duty. Yet even in the face of this duty we now export Island Manufactured Leather to New Brunswick. But, Sir, Union would develope the enormous manufacturing capabilities of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Great, Prince Edward Island never can become, her geographical position, her limited area, her small population, and the absence of all mineral deposits, preclude us from becoming a great country; but, Sir, the Provinces with which it is proposed that we should unite, contain every element of greatness; there is no reason, then, why they should not become a great and prosperous country, or why we should not share their greatness. It is argued that the Canadian Tariff would follow Union, and that the people of Prince Edward Island would, under its operation, be necessitated to pay an increased amount of duties. I do not believe such would be the case. It is true that the Canadian Tariff is very much higher than the Tariff of this Island. Tea and Sugar, imported under the Canadian Tariff, would probably cost higher than they cost at present; but, it is equally true that a variety of articles on which we now pay duty, would then, as the manufactures of the Confederation come to us duty free, and the saving which we should effect on these articles of Home Manufacture, would very materially exceed the excess of duty which we should pay upon foreign importations. It has been urged, that under Confederation, although we might obtain from within the Confederation many articles, the manufactures of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Canadian Tariff would prevent such articles from being imported from Britain and the United States. But, Sir, if, under Confederation, the people of Prince Edward Island should be able to procure British Colonial Manufactures cheaper than they can now procure similar articles from the United States or Britain, they would evidently be gainers by Confederation. The great wealth and prosperity of Britain are mainly attributable to the coal and iron which she possesses. The importance of the possession of iron was recognized many years ago. When Croesus exhibited to Solon his treasures of gold and silver, the Philosopher is said to have remarked to the King, 'I think whomsoever another should come who had better iron than thy, he would be master of all this gold and silver.' Coal and iron have raised Britain to become the workshop of the world. Where, in there, on the face of the earth, a country that possesses more valuable deposits of iron and of coal than Nova Scotia? She has an inexhaustible supply of the most valuable iron, coal, and limestone, in close proximity to each other and to navigable harbors, and in addition has an abundance of fertile land. Sir, Nova Scotia with all these advantages must become a great country. (Hear, hear.) Why, I would ask, are British American, do we not make an effort to develope our boundless manufacturing capabilities? Were you, Sir, to go to the enterprising people of the neighboring republic, and to enter their manufactories, you would there learn the fact that a large number of their most skilful mechanics are men from these British Provinces; this Island has contributed her proportion of these valuable men; they year after year leave their native country and never return to it, because, Sir, there is no home, no employment for them. (Hear, hear.) The sooner the Colonists set to work to establish manufactories, the better will it be for all of us. But, Sir, to this, Confederation is requisite. Tariffs between the Provinces must be abolished. The population of Nova Scotia is too limited to support extensive manufactures, and the same thing may be said of New Brunswick. In illustration, I may be permitted to state that the latter Province is capable of producing an unlimited supply of very valuable coal oil—an article on which we last year paid in duty nearly £1,000. The proprietors of the coal oil works produce the article only in limited quantitity. They cannot send their oil to Nova Scotia or to this Island, by reason of the duty which, in each of the Provinces, is imposed upon its importation, and therefore their mines are only partially worked. Unite the several Provinces, as proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference, give to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, to Prince Edward Island four millions of customers. If this should be done, our young men, who have become skilful artizans in the workshops of the United States, would find employment in their native Provinces. Sir, it is impossible to over estimate the manufacturing greatness which Nova Scotia is capable of attaining. The iron and coal of that Province are now exported to Europe and to the United States where they are employed in the manufactures of articles which we now import from these countries. The time is propitious for Confederation. We may reasonably hope for the restoration of peace in the United States. Intercolonial free trade would in the words of the resolution promote the development of the trade and manufacturing capabilities of the Colonies and advance the great prosperity, but intercolonial free trade is impracticable without Confederation. The proceedings of the Conference at Charlottetown and Quebec were watched with interest by the civilized world. The people of those countries of Europe which send emigrants to America have had their attention directed to the British Provinces. Let these Provinces become consolidated, and then emigrants to come from Europe, as well as many now in the Republic, will seek the British Provinces as a home instead of the United States, now so heavily taxed. I come now, Sir, to the 5th and 6th Resolutions:—

"5. That the Report of the Conference of Delegates from the British North American Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, taken as a whole, contains a declaration of principles—as the basis of a Federal Union—which this House considers just to the several Provinces and Colonies."

"6. *Resolved*, That this House, believing it is only by mutual concessions and compromises the several British North American Provinces and Colonies can ever agree upon those principles which shall form the basis of a Union, orders that the report of the Conference of Delegates from these several Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, be published throughout this Colony for the deliberate consideration of the people, on whom will devolve the acceptance or rejection of the proposed Union."

I am sorry to say, Sir, that I have no hope of carrying a majority in favor of the declaration, that the principles of Union contained