

*tinuance of grants for public works, for fortifications, and for the maintenance of troops in the provinces and of the navy on the station."*

Here you see the supporters of the Anti-Confederation doctrines perpetrating this disgraceful libel upon the people of Nova Scotia. I hold that these gentlemen are no worse, however, than those who here advocate annexation. We are told that our loyalty is only a mere lip service, that we value British connection only for the advantages it brings with it—for the money it affords us in connection with naval and military expenditures. I ask the hon member for East Halifax and those who are associating with him, ought they not to be proud of their connection with these gentlemen who thus libel our country?

We are told that we should not go into this Union—that Nova Scotia is now happy and prosperous, and does not require union to make her more so. Let me ask how are we going to provide for the continuance of that prosperity? Who of all the Anticonfederates can show us where, without union, we will be in two years?—who can guarantee us our position for that period or less time? We only jeopardize it whilst we remain isolated as at present. Look at the geographical position of Nova Scotia, at her great resources, and ask if she should not wish to be even more prosperous than she actually is, or without union can ever expect to be. What is it that placed England in her present exalted position among the nations of the world? What is it that has given her continued supremacy on the sea, and as a manufacturing country? Her mines of coal and iron. What have we in Nova Scotia? She is partly a fishing and partly an agricultural country, but she has also most valuable mineral resources only in the infancy of their development. If you consider her water power, and mines of coal and iron, and her geographical situation, you see all the elements of a great manufacturing country on this side of the country. Whilst we have no market we cannot expect to see our manufacturing system develop itself, but if we had a market of four millions of consumers, then we might expect, in a fair competition, to see them progress. Give her the population, and I am confident that she will take a position in the manufacturing world that no country of the same size can far surpass.

We are told that we can have free trade without union, but that cannot be proved; we are told it, I repeat, but not the slightest evidence is adduced to show how we can obtain it. There are intercolonial commercial rivalries that prevent that object being attained as applicable to manufactures. Wherever an attempt has been made in this direction, failure has followed, and will follow hereafter. Nothing is more certain than the truth of the principle that when you attach a small country having all the elements of manufacturing, to a greater one with a large population, you benefit that smaller country. Situated as we are on the broad Atlantic, with our ports open at all seasons of the year, with our fisheries, mineral and other resources, we may become the entrepot for a large extra trade between the other British North American colonies and the West Indies and other parts of the world, and only require a union with a larger country to become great and prosperous to an un-

limited degree. A trade will arise that will give employment to our shipping, and we may as it will, no doubt, add largely to that shipping and the amount of our carrying trade. But, sir, if no increased prosperity will result from union, I again ask who can guarantee to Nova Scotia the position she now occupies? Look at the state of things on this continent, and ask yourselves is not the danger imminent if we remain isolated as at present. If, on the other hand, we are able to get by the union a guarantee of the continuance and increase of this prosperity—if we can by it perpetuate the connection with the great Empire of which we form a part, is it not our duty as well as interest to do so without delay, and not risk the continuance of that connection by a selfish and exclusive policy against the unanimous wish of the people who protect us.

We are told by the hon. member for East Halifax that there is a sentiment prevalent in England in favor of getting rid of these Colonies. I had a better opportunity than the hon. gentleman of judging the state of public opinion, and I travelled over the country more than he did. I can unhesitatingly state that in no part of the mother country did I discover any such sentiment as he speaks of. We have heard of the Manchester school of politicians who are said to be unfavorably disposed towards these Colonies of the Crown; and desirous for their separation. That party is small, if it is all, which I very much doubt; and it certainly does not represent the sentiment of the people. I had the honour on one occasion, during my late visit to England, of sitting down to a luncheon, at Rochdale, a little out of Manchester, with some one hundred gentlemen of standing and influence. I was presented to them during the entertainment as having one been of the delegates who went from Nova Scotia to the Quebec Conference, to frame the scheme of the Union of the Provinces. I can only say that the statement was received with universal applause, and I was called upon to respond to the toast. I never felt prouder in my life than to hear in that very heart of the Manchester district the cheers that rang from one end of the building to the other, when I promulgated the opinion that it would not be long before the Colonies were united. A few politicians representing that part of the country may spout such ideas, but I am certain the hearts of the people are not with them. I believe that a similar feeling prevails among all classes of the people of Great Britain. If any such sentiment be entertained by parties in England, as the hon member says, it is perhaps not difficult to account for it. Persons there may be deluded into the idea that the Maritime Colonies are opposed to Confederation, thanks to the hon member and his associates. But if the hon member is correct, and England does wish to throw us off, what, then, is to be our fate? Where are we? What country do we belong to? What must be the fate of 350,000 people left isolated and alone? Annexation must inevitably follow. Therefore admitting that such a feeling does exist in the mother country, we have an additional argument in favor of the necessity of Confederation—of a union that will give unity and solidity; a population of four millions of souls bound toge-