

never intended to be applied to them. I do not believe that we are in danger of being attacked by the United States. Every expression of sentiment by the leaders of public opinion in that country is opposed to such a course. We heard Henry Ward Beecher, on the first day of the present year, saying to his congregation: "I am not for war with any nation, and that man is not my friend who declares war against the people of our Fatherland. All that is dearest to us, of what we brought hither, we brought from thence, Laws and Institutions, and Christian civilization, and woe be to the day that begets estrangement between the Christians of England and the Christians of America!" We hear Secretary Seward, when addressing the crowd who were congratulating him on the surrender of General Lee, saying that as long as Canada preferred remaining under the rule of her noble Queen, to voluntary incorporation in the United States, she was safe from attack from them. But in case of invasion, how shall we be secured in Confederation. It is proposed to expend a million dollars for defence. Why that is just about six hours of the expenditure by the American Government during the last two years—they have averaged over two millions per day; during the last week the tramps of two hundred thousand men have roused through the streets of Washington, besides the tens of thousands of soldiers scattered from Maine to the Rio Grande. We should have two thousand miles of sea coast, and three thousand miles of land and lake frontier. Can Canada send us assistance when she has two and a half millions of people, and the very States touching her frontier contain twelve millions? Can we in Confederation with three millions of people defend ourselves against thirty millions, who have, by so many railroads and other means of communication such power of concentrating their forces on our borders? If they have ten times our population have they not far more than ten times our power in all other resources of war, wealth and supplies, and all the vast implements and machinery for warfare. But shall we fall back on the old exploded falsehood, that the Yankees will not fight? that one Englishman or Provincial would be equal to three. Has history taught us nothing? Are we not descended from the one race? A branch of that great Aryan race, who from its earliest traditions in remote antiquity were a fighting people. Starting from the remote regions of Central Asia, whither in their migrations they overran the plains of Hindostan, or the forests of Germany, wherever they laid their hands upon a people, it was the hand of a conqueror. And is not the Anglo-Saxon the noblest branch from that race, either in the arts of war or of peace. I could never see why the Englishman, the Irishman, the German, would not, with the same discipline fight as well upon the western shore of the Atlantic, as upon the Eastern; and I could never see why an imaginary line of frontier should make the Provincials so much better men than their American neighbors. But because with such heavy odds against us, I do not think that we should be able to repel an invasion from the United States. I do not wish the gentlemen upon the opposite side of this question to think that the wish is father to the thought. I would, that it were otherwise, more than any thing earthly. I could desire that my own Province and country was strong enough to defy attack from any quarter. I would go into Confederation with any

sacrifice of political or financial interests if I thought it would accomplish this. I believe that I would gladly lay down my own life, if by so doing I could prevent the subjugation of my country. But I cannot shut my eyes to facts that are patent as the noon day sun. If it is loyalty to bury one's head like the ostrich and refuse to see what is clear to all others, then am I open to the charge of disloyalty. But if it is loyalty to have a strong love and admiration for England, for her history, her institutions and her literature, and to hope that her flag may always float over these Provinces, and that I may always live under her sway, then I am loyal.

MR. WETMORE.—I do not wish to be understood as stating my own merits, but having been returned by the grand emporium of this Province, I feel I would but ill discharge my duty, being placed in the high position which I occupy, did I not express my views on this great scheme of Confederation. It is true the matter has been handled politically, commercially, and financially, very ably by the gentlemen who have spoken on the question. I will not take up the time by going into minute details, but shall express my views briefly and generally against the Scheme. In the first place it is said that there is no need of a delegation, because the people of England are aware that the grand scheme of Confederation has been defeated. It might be sufficient that the British Government in the exercise of their powers will have a consideration for the constitutional rights which we have. But this is a matter on which discretion is to be exercised. It is said the appointment of this delegation is a concession to Confederation; in like manner the building of Penitentiaries is a concession to criminals. We have a law in this land to prevent the commission of crime; but would a man, if he thought his house was going to be destroyed, if he did not take a reasonable means of defence, lie down on his bed satisfied as if the law was going to protect him? I feel that where the constituency of this country has been maligned every effort should be made to protect our rights and our homes in the land in which we live. It has been said by several hon. gentlemen that those who have been returned on the Anti-Confederate ticket have been returned by the rabble. Several times this baseless slander has been uttered. I have been returned as one of the representatives of St. John, and I can say I have not been returned by a rabble. I represent more intelligence, wealth and independence than the Confederation party can begin to boast of. It is a base, malignant slander, got up for the basest of purposes. I possess little influence in St. John; and was opposed to men who held high positions, men of political standing who brought political and monetary influence to bear, and who had experience in elections for a number of years; therefore it required a large amount of intelligence to return me to this position which I have the honor to hold. The election was not held upon any backsliding of the former Government; it was conducted upon the question of Confederation, or no Confederation. The Government had some slight amount of backsliding, but they sunk into insignificance and were never spoken of during the election; our thoughts then were to protect our homes where we lived, for we felt they were about to be sacrificed. It may have been that the Government thought this Scheme was absolutely necessary for the interests of the people, or it may have

been that designing men were seeking to aggrandize themselves at the expense of the dearest rights of the people; that was the question, and it was the all-absorbing question, and fair, reasonable, and proper men were taken to explain to the people the nature of this Confederation, and the effect it would have upon the community. It was said that the Hon. President of the Council went about the country promising offices to people to support his party, but wherever that gentleman's voice was heard, there was a declaration made in the papers that all he said amounted to nothing, and the people that advocated that scheme were the people that must be returned to represent the interests of this Province. If that was the case, is it a reasonable proposition to suppose that any individual could hold out inducements to persons to join the opposition. There was a fair canvass. I had something to do with the election in St. John, and I never knew a fairer canvass conducted in my life. Public Meetings were held by each party. While I say there was no influence on the part of the opposition, I may say all the Government influence was used; every thing was done that could be done to retain the offices which they held. Was not this celebrated "Cole's Island" operation a Government influence. Were these men aware that the voice of the people should be the voice of the Government? Where the people had expressly declared that no such undertaking would be conducive to the interests of the people. I cannot conceive how men, elected under the principles of responsible Government, can prostrate that influence, and use the people's money for electioneering purposes. It is said that the views of the people of this Province have entirely changed on this question; it is very well to put forth this assertion, but we have to exercise our own judgement whether to believe it or not. The late Solicitor General, in the City in which he lives, was proverbial for his popularity, and the greatest amount of sympathy was felt for him when he lost his election and had to give up his office; since then he was a candidate for the office of Mayor in St. John; his talents, integrity, and the length of time he had lived there gave him great influence, every effort was made to secure his election; at the election of representatives he received 1400 votes in the City of St. John, but now after this Confederation scheme has been defeated, and the influence of the Government withdrawn, he received but 300 votes. Does this show that those who were Confederates have altered their opinions and are now against the scheme? It has been said by my hon. friend from the County of Albert that the election was a matter of accident. I think it was so. I believe it was the intention of the leader of the Government not to submit this to the consideration of the people at all. It has been said that when these delegates returned from Canada they anticipated that there was a majority in the House of Assembly who would carry this measure through. If it was the intention to submit it to the people, why was this election held over in the County of Northumberland? It is said that this delegation is not required; that the Home Government know that the people of this Province have pronounced against the Scheme. It might as well be said, what is the use of the Canadians sending home a delegation? The Home Government know that the Canadians have