

sustained by such *doctrinaries* as Goldwin Smith' who do not hesitate to say that their policy is to get rid of these Colonies, and I will tell you who strengthen their hands—feeble as they were shewn to be when they were struck down by the independent action of the Palmerston Ministry, who unhesitatingly declared that this was not the policy of the British government and people. It is the hon. gentleman himself who is now giving weight to that party. It is the press and people of this country who do not hesitate to say that they are prepared to treat with contempt and derision the parental advice of the Ministers of England, given for the benefit of the colonies themselves. The only danger is, if these gentlemen are powerful enough to obstruct the union of the Provinces, and leave it doubtful to the British Parliament whether we do or do not desire to have connection with the Crown of the mother country.

The hon. member for Richmond called attention to the significant fact that the *New York Herald* stated that the object of the Fenian organization was to prevent a Union of British North America. You find that journal inspired by the utmost contempt of British institutions, holding the Fenian organization up to the support of the people of the United States and telling them that the opponents of Confederation deserve their confidence because their policy is a United States policy, and that it is to weaken the connection between the Crown and the Colonies. Be this as it may, it is quite apparent that the difficulties that have been thrown in the way of the policy approved and urged upon us by the British government have led the press of the United States to suppose that the reason why these Colonies have refused to accept this policy is because they prefer Annexation to the American Republic to retaining the present connection with the mother country. I say therefore that the hon. member never misrepresented the public more grossly than when he declared that there is anything like a pervading desire in Great Britain to get rid of these Colonies. Go to the Ministry, the Parliament, and the Press—every thing by which the public sentiment can be gauged—and you will find that it is in favour of keeping up the connection and preventing the dignity of the Crown being tarnished in the slightest degree.

Where is the man in this House or country that will sustain the policy which he propounds in opposition to this proposed union. The question of representation in the Imperial Parliament was propounded on the floors of this House with an ability and an eloquence such as the hon. member himself knows he has not the slightest pretension to. He knows it was put forth in the most attractive manner that it was possible to put it, but it fell still-born upon the intelligent minds of this country, and never received the slightest favour in Nova Scotia or any other part of British North America. He knows it was only a few years ago that the same eloquent speeches were reprinted and put before the public of England, and down

to the present hour not a man, with the slightest pretension to statesmanship, has been disposed to give it a word of encouragement. I ask, then, in the presence of the grave emergency,—of the dangers that threaten British America—when everything we hold dear is imperilled, is this the time to revive a project which has never obtained any favour among the people of this country? This same gentleman who considers that 19 of the ablest men that this Province can send to Ottawa would be powerless (though they would constitute a number greater than is found necessary to decide the fate of parties in England), would be satisfied with two votes in a Parliament of 650 members. Suppose we had such a representation, I ask you is it for that Nova Scotians would be prepared to place the enormous and oppressive taxation upon the shoulders that would be required to sustain the army and navy of England, and the expenses of any wars in which the mother country might be engaged?

When on a former occasion I confronted the hon. member with the statement that the Reciprocity Treaty was about to be abrogated, the country will remember that he entertained no such fears. Well the hon. member has proved a false prophet, for the treaty has been abrogated. The hon. member now tells you that the United States do not want these Provinces. I do not require to labour that question. He tells you himself that the United States, if they could grasp this Province, would become the first Naval Power in the world—able to dictate terms to the world. Does he think that eludes the scrutiny of the keenest statesmen to be found in that country—whose policy is to grasp where they can gain a foothold and extend their dominion. Therefore I ask the hon. member if he has not himself shown you that there is sufficient inducement for the United States to obtain these Colonies; and I do not require to take up your time with showing that the only means we have of resisting their encroachments is Union. Therefore let every friend of British institutions, every loyal subject, every man who is not willing to see our rights and privileges torn from us, combine in this great work of elevating these comparatively insignificant Provinces into a higher position in the eyes of America and of perpetuating those institutions which are essential to our happiness and prosperity.

I shall refer, before I close, to a few remarks which the hon. member has made in another place. He has taken a liberty with this house, and proclaimed to the people that there are traitors within its walls—that there are men who have treasonable designs upon the rights and liberties of the country. He would hold up gentlemen to the execration of the people by one inflammatory publication after the other. I am now going to make a statement which otherwise I would not feel called upon to make. The hon. member for Richmond, in the exercise of his privileges as an independent member of this house, put a question across the floor to the government in regard to one of the most impor-