

He would ask the House, with these facts standing indelibly recorded before them—with the debates of the House of Commons and Lords, proving that the few men who wished to sever the colonial connection and to prevent the construction of the Intercolonial Railway were the opponents of Union, whilst, on the other hand, the great majority of each of the two governing parties declared that they approved of Union because it drew these Colonies nearer to the Empire,—was there any one then prepared to repeat the libel upon the sentiments of the Imperial Parliament which the hon. member had invented? When Mr. Bright declared that he regarded these Colonies as a burthen, what did Mr. Watkins say? The hon. member ought certainly to have refrained from uttering a single word against Mr. Watkins. When Mr. Howe went to England, a few years ago, to advocate the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, he was taken by the hand by Mr. Watkins, who then, as now, was true to our interests. That gentleman took Mr. Howe from platform to platform, and introduced him to the people of England. Mr. Howe appreciated at that time the manner in which he had been treated by Mr. Watkins, and put his sentiments upon record when he returned. In 1867 Mr. Watkins, true to the advocacy of British American interests, advocated the claims of the Colonies in a most eloquent manner; and was now held up to the Legislature as a person influenced by interested motives. A feeling of shame should have prevented the hon. member from turning upon that gentleman, because he was true to the principles he had always professed.

He was certainly amused to hear the hon. member refer to a story about a standing army that was being got up in Canada. The hon. gentleman knew that he was only attempting to mislead the country—that there had been no standing army arranged; but he had taken up some idle newspaper rumor and given it currency. Suppose the Government of the Confederacy concluded that it would be wise and fair to the interests of the country to have a standing army, what then? The hon. member's statement was on record that he was willing to pay pound for pound with the Canadians, and he had committed himself to the scheme for the organization of the Empire—The hon. member talked about taxation, and yet he had himself admitted, as an act of justice to the people of England, that we should support the army and navy, just as they do, and pay as much as the people of Kent or Surrey. If the people of this Province, therefore, escaped a tax larger than their entire revenue, for defence alone, it was because the hon. member was powerless to carry it.

Mr. ANNAND said that as reference had been made to the feeling in England, he would invite attention to what had occurred in the House of Lords—to the speech of the Marquis of Normanby—who said that these Provinces were to choose their own future, either by separation in this way from the mother country, or by annexation to the United States, if they preferred that. Not a single Lord rose to rebuke the sen-

timent. When such an expression could be used in such a place, what might be inferred of the feelings of the governing classes in England. Only one gentleman had spoken warmly in favor of connection with the mother country, in the House of Commons, and that was Mr. Watkins. He did not wish to attribute improper motives, but it was well known that that gentleman was identified with the railways of Canada, was interested in enhancing the value of Grand Trunk stock, and promoting the interests of the Hudson's Bay Company. He had a pecuniary interest in this connection; that gentleman spoke warmly, but there was no response to his sentiments. The House manifested the most chilling indifference, and the feeling out of doors was that these Colonies being the weak point of the Empire, England could not, while she was bound to defend them, speak brave words to the United States, and that we should therefore be put in a position in which a separation could be easily effected. Under Confederation the only connecting link between England and the Colonies would be the appointment by the Crown of the Governor General,—in case of difficulty between the mother country and the Dominion, it would be easy to withdraw that officer. Some members of the Federal Government might then aspire to the position of President, and they would then only have to reach the sentiments of Lord Normanby and Earl Derby to accomplish independence. Nothing would drive from his mind that the feeling which he had described was the prevailing one among the governing classes of England, although among the masses of the people the sentiment was largely in favor of the retention of the Colonies. The Prov. Secretary's remark about the guarantee for the railway reminded him of a conversation he had had with a gentleman holding a high and influential position in the great metropolis. When he had represented to that gentleman that in addition to the railway there would be demands for enlarging canals, for erecting fortifications, for opening up the North West Territory, and that sixteen millions of pounds might be required before all was over, the answer was, that that sum and double the amount should, in his opinion, be given to get rid of the indefensible Colony of Canada. Confederation was more popular in England from that view than from any other. At the first discussion on Confederation the people had been assured by the delegates at Temperance Hall that the entire sum to be required for defence would be a million of dollars, but what had been seen since? Canada alone had expended two millions on that service,—Nova Scotia had made a handsome contribution, and so had New Brunswick,—and now we were advised that, in addition there was to be a standing army of five thousand men, the nucleus of an army which would cost two and a half millions. This was no idle rumor, as had been stated, it came authoritatively. When the Volunteer and Militia organizations were provided for the sum would be near ten millions. Any man must see that the Colonies were drifting