

come to look at our militia estimates for this year, I think it will be found that we have done more for our defence than Canada, in proportion to our resources and population, and therefore when I say that we are more loyal I prove it by the law on the statute book, and by the liberal provision contained in the estimates. The Pro. Sec. told us that this union will give us a character and a nationality we do not now possess—that we have now no *locus standi* and have no weight amongst the nations of the world. I ask how is it going to improve our position in that respect to annex us to Canada? Is it going to add to our importance or position to deprive us of our Lieutenant Governor, and our character as a province, and reduce us to the condition of a mere dependency of a larger province? If it does, I certainly am at a loss to understand it. It is not a very difficult matter to account for the anxiety of Canada for this union. Everybody knows the troubled state of affairs that have existed in that country for years, and it is natural that they should turn to us, not from any regard to our interests, but as a panacea for their own ills. They saw a country with a low tariff, able to uphold all her institutions and her public works—able to devote \$80,000 for her defence, and have a surplus besides—and, like Napoleon's giant and the dwarf, they are prepared to squeeze us, affectionately it may be, but it is the giant's nature to squeeze hard. The hon. Pro. Sec. told us as an irresistible argument in favor of his views—that that great organ, the *Times*, had declared in favor of the scheme, and therefore we must submit. In fact, as Nebuchadnezer told the Babylonians of old—we must bow down and worship the graven image he has sat up. Now I will, with the permission of the house, read a few extracts from the letter of the correspondent of that paper, who came here during the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales—and who was so well up in the geography of the country, that on his way to Halifax he found himself at Toronto. Hear what he says about Windsor:

"So on I got to Windsor, a village of shanties and some 1,200 people, where a well meaning, but mistaken, individual has built an hotel large enough to accommodate all the inhabitants. The latter, however, as might have been anticipated, prefer living in their huts; so this hotel has never been opened to this day." * * *

This sir, is the way in which the accredited correspondent of this great paper maligns the people of this Province, on an occasion when, I am proud to say, they did themselves honor in the reception they gave their Prince.

Then, again, in speaking of the daughters of Acadia, who are renowned the world over for their beauty, their intelligence, and their virtue—this is the way he dares to speak of them:

"Halifax, at first, does not impress one favorably; for the entrance from the station includes, as usual, all the worst thoroughfares and meanest houses, where the *sun burnt natives* loll out of their windows all day, and where brightly dressed Indian squaws, with their great splay feet, covered with thick moccasins, tramp along with little paposes tied hand and foot to a flat piece of board, and looking like some curious preparation of an infant being dried in the sun."

And yet this is the paper that the Provincial Secretary thinks should influence the judg-

ment of the people of this country in the consideration of this great question. Now, sir, I shall not detain this house with any further remarks. All I can say is, if the people of this country are willing to surrender their rights and liberties, let them do so. I have done my duty in warning them against it. I may not live long enough to see them reaping the bitter fruits of their own folly; but I shall have the proud satisfaction of knowing that my children can point to my tomb, and say—There lies one who had the manliness to raise his voice in the halls of parliament against this unholy alliance.

Speech of Mr. McLellan.

Mr. MCLELAN spoke as follows:

Mr. Speaker,—We have been charged with making this a party question. But surely the position which members on both sides occupy in reference to it is sufficient to show we are not amenable to such a charge. For myself I am about to address the house in opposition to the views propounded by my political party leader; and let me say that no act of my little political life has given me half the pain I feel in being compelled to take a position in opposition to that hon. gentleman. There are other considerations which might well cause me to hesitate: not only is the question the most momentous ever discussed here, but there is the further consideration that it has been matured by thirty-three gentlemen who claim, and perhaps not undeservedly, to be among the ablest in British America. But if I might be disposed to hesitate from these considerations, I remember that I am here to act upon my own conscientious convictions of what is right and wrong—of what may be or may not be for the good of my country—and not upon other men's capabilities of forming a correct judgment. For apart from considerations of a political nature which may and do too often influence men, there are occasions when the most enlarged and comprehensive minds overlook the useful and the practical in the contemplation of the ideal. So has it been, I believe, on the present occasion. Men have given up to an idea, or a sentiment that which they should never have yielded, except to sound argument and strong conclusive fact. I believe that the idea or sentiment of union has had very much to do with influencing men's minds upon this subject. When the Provincial Secretary, in addressing the house on the history of this question, referred to the most unanimous applause with which the subject of union had been greeted when mentioned on platform or festive occasions, I thought at the time that very much of that applause was given to the sentiment or idea of union which has always a charm for men's minds and not so much to the practical workings of a union of these provinces. There are perhaps few words in the English language that have such an influence over men's minds as that little word "Union." We have seen in the neighboring republic how powerful an influence this "union sentiment" exercises over the people. Many years ago when the question of the admission of Texas into the Union was under consideration, Daniel Webster, than whom America has not known a mightier intellect, warned the Senate against the extension of territory Southward. That warning voice was unheeded. The union sentiment prevailed,