

hands was overwhelmed with terror. So are these hon. gentlemen overcome by the workings of their own imaginations.

We are told by these gentlemen danger is really imminent, that it will come upon us suddenly; then, I ask, is it the course of wise men to undertake a change in our constitutional administration that will require years to perfect. Why the instincts of the lowest order of animal life tell us better. The insect, when it is about to undergo a transformation, seeks retirement until that transformation is perfected; and shall we enter upon the throes of this great constitutional transformation at an hour when we are told danger is coming upon us. Let us not put off the old harness until the time has come when we can safely put on the new and have it adjusted. The illustration given by the late Abraham Lincoln, that it is no time to swap horses when you are crossing a stream, ought to be sufficient for these gentlemen. The hon. member for Colchester has spoken of the great change which has occurred in the character and position of the American people. He has told you that a very few years ago that people were engaged in their workshops and factories of the country, but now they have been drawn from all these, and have formed an army that has placed that nation among the first military powers of the world. But he neglected to tell us there were influences more potent to draw these men from their industrial pursuits than were perhaps ever before found combined.

They felt not only called to rescue their country, in whose greatness they felt a just pride, from being rent in fragments, but to wipe from their national escutcheon the foul stain of slavery. That great work they seem to have accomplished. When at our last meeting the tidings reached us that their President had fallen by the hand of a foul assassin, and when we sat in silence no man daring to trust his voice in expressing the sympathies—the sorrow that swelled our hearts—further than to give official form to our feelings, I asked myself what must be the effect of these tidings upon the people over whom Abraham Lincoln presided, when they so affect us. Surely, sir, that people have now drank the last drop in their cup of bitterness, and whatever other effects may flow from this act, I believe the American people will, with the blood of Abraham Lincoln, seal a covenant with the Most High that the clank of the slave chain shall no more be heard in their land. That he who had this object deep in heart, and who, while ably presiding over them, led them on gradually step by step to proclaim freedom to the black man, will in his death so fix and stamp the national mind to that high purpose that when the hour of peace comes, as in the good Providence of God it seems nigh, there will, in the arrangement of terms, be no temporizing, no yielding to Southern interests and wishes on this question. Soon, therefore, will many in those armies be found going back to their industrial avocations, saddened no doubt by the great sacrifice they have witnessed, yet consoled by the glorious thought that they have aided in giving to the term liberty a meaning and a signification hitherto unknown upon their soil, that henceforth it embraces all classes, creeds and colors.

The hon. member will tell us that there are others in that army who will not so readily go to industrial employments; this is true, but all

those will find sufficient employment in re-organizing the Southern portion of the empire and in restoring it from the wreck and debris of this terrible civil strife. Consider also the spirit of the Southern people. The men have shown in the hardships they have endured—in the sacrifices they have made—and in their daring acts that a feeling of hostility to the North lies deep in their hearts. Nor have the Southern women been less remarkable for patient endurance, high courageous spirit and deep-seated hatred; and can we for a moment suppose that the children born of such parents, nourished and trained by these women, will not inherit their feelings and so render it imperative on the Northern portion of the nation to keep for many years a strong hand upon the South. The Provincial Secretary has told us that he has looked upon slavery as the great guarantee of our safety. I don't so read American history. So far as I can judge, the men who have been most bitter in their hostility to England, and most desirous of finding causes of war with that country have been Southern statesmen. The circumstances dependent upon slavery have been such as to lead them to a breach of the peace. The fact that England, with a magnanimity that did her infinite honor, gave twenty millions to redeem her slaves—a fact that stood a perpetual censure as it were upon the South, no doubt was a cause of irritation upon their minds. Again, England kept up a large force upon the African coast to keep down that traffic which tended to give rise to this feeling of animosity. Again, north of them there was a frontier line over which when the slave passed into Canada he gained freedom. This was, perhaps, the strongest inducement for the Southerners to make war upon these colonies for the purpose of wiping away this boundary line, and enabling them to follow wherever the slave might go, and return him to his chains. These were great causes of animosity to England, and now, since, under the blessing of God, this slavery has been blotted out, I believe peace is much more likely to be preserved between England and America. Had the Southerners succeeded in obtaining their independence, the likelihood of hostilities with England would have been much greater. The Northern people thwarted and smarting under the mortification occasioned by their inability to conquer the South, would have been more likely to turn their army—for which they would not have employment—upon these Provinces, than they will be now when they have succeeded in accomplishing the great object that they had in calling these armies into existence. The hon. delegate alluded to a number of circumstances—the passport system, the proposed armament upon the lakes, and the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty—as so many evidences of the feeling of the Northern people towards us. When he was reading his summary I wondered why he omitted to refer to a fact which was known here some weeks ago—that the notice in reference to the armament upon the lakes had been withdrawn, and arrangements made for a mere police force. Earl Russell, however, justifies the notice, he says:

"Coupled with this notice is a notice given with respect to the armament of the lakes. I think it must be admitted that recent occurrences on the lakes—namely, the seizure of vessels by the agents of the Confederacy and other acts of hostility—completely