

selves most enthusiastic advocates of Union prepared to take advantage of the opportunity thus afforded.—I will not say an unfair advantage, though I would be justified in saying so—for party purposes. Despite such facts, however, I feel convinced that not only the great body of the conservative party, but the majority of the liberals of this country—the standard bearers of which have given this question a support which does infinite credit to their patriotism—are just as warmly in favour of Union as when Mr. Howe was its most able exponent. I do not deny that there has been a large and formidable opposition to this measure, but I believe when the people look at it without reference to other public questions or any considerations of a party character, when it is no longer *sub judice* but become the law of the land, the constitution of the country for weal or woe, all classes will combine to sustain it, and the opponents of Union themselves will feel that there is but one course to pursue if they wish to lay claim to the character of statesmen and patriots—and that is to work out our new institutions in a manner that will be most conducive to the interests of the province at large. (Cheers.)

The hon. member referred to the London *Times* as a great authority, but no person knows better than he does that that journal has been regarded as antagonistic to the interests of British America, and that it has always favoured the Australasian colonies. It will be also remembered that it has taken the same view of this question as has been taken by the opponents of Union in Parliament, that these colonies are a burthen to the mother country. The great objection, in fact, which it has urged against this scheme is, that instead of dis severing the connection, Union has bound us for ever to the Crown, and that the British Government are committed to the guarantee for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway.

Reference has been made to the defenceless position of Canada. Now I have always regarded—and I am glad to find that every man who has had an opportunity of studying the question has coincided with me—it would be utterly impossible to retain Nova Scotia unless Canada and New Brunswick were retained. New Brunswick is especially defenceless, and if that province and Canada should fall into the possession of a foreign power there is no British statesman who will undertake to say that the security of this province could be maintained. Therefore this is not a question whether one province is more defenceless than another, but whether the combination and the consolidation of the whole will not give increased security to all. The gentlemen who have been deputed to advocate the views of the opponents of Union have placed on record what I suppose are the opinions of the gentlemen they represent. The organ of the party led by Mr. Howe was the first to propound the principle that British subjects in this country were bound to pay pound for pound for the defence of the empire with every other portion of the British Empire. When the "Morning Chronicle" was wrested from the hands of its

former editor because he had become the friend of British America Union, and the hon. members for East Halifax became its editor as well as proprietor, the first thing he did was to put on record what their scheme was for the defence of the country. If the hon. member says "Leave well enough alone," I will turn him to the record of the leader of the Anti-Union party. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Howe) has given in the most authentic form his opinion that the province has in the present condition of affairs "no security for peace." A number of articles which are now known to be written by Mr. Howe were published in the hon. member's paper, and in these the declaration was made, in so many words, that their scheme for the defence of the Empire was to levy a tax upon the people equal to that borne by the rest of the Empire. The hon. member for East Halifax, in a pamphlet which he wrote as the representative of the Anti-Union party has put it on record that he is prepared to pay "pound for pound with the Canadians." I ask, then, the hon. mover of this resolution with the fact before him that the leader of the Anti-Union party has propounded a scheme—a scheme endorsed by the other Anti-Union delegates—that would absorb the entire revenue of this province for defence alone; does it lie in his mouth or of any opponent of Union to charge us with having attempted to increase the burthens of the country in relation to defence. Not only is this scheme the only means by which British America can remain British America—by which we can retain the free British institutions which it is our pride and happiness to possess—but it opens up to these countries an avenue to prosperity such as was never offered to any people before. Therefore I say this measure of Union instead of increasing the burthens of these people is effected upon terms which are going to continue us under the aegis of Great Britain—to preserve to us her free institutions, to give us the largest amount of prosperity; all this, too, with an immunity from burthens that might well make us the envy of the world.

Look across the borders, and what do you see the allies of our opponents doing? We see the Governor of Maine in his annual message declaring his hostility to Confederation, and asserting that the friends of the United States in these provinces were doing their utmost to prevent the consummation of that scheme. Is there a man in this country who can be so blind as not to see what that means? Can any one fail to see the opinion the sagacious statesmen of the United States entertain of the future which is in store for British America under the scheme of Confederation. The statesmen of that country are bound to do all in their power to promote the stability of the institutions which they possess, but I am not less able to draw my deduction from the course they are pursuing. In the report of the Parliament of Maine, founded upon that portion of the Governor's Address which refers to Confederation, you find a contrast drawn between British America and the United States. They tell you that the population of New Brunswick is increasing three times as