

as the fisheries upon her coast or the riches of her soil. Nearly the whole have been bartered away to a single company, for no adequate provincial or national object. A monopoly has thus been created, which wounds the pride, while it cramps the industry of the people. If Nova-Scotia were a State of the American Union, this monopoly would not last an hour. If she now asked to have this lease cancelled or bought up, that her industry might be free, she would seek nothing unreasonable. The emancipation of our soil is perhaps as much an obligation resting upon the people of England, as was the emancipation of the slaves. No Government dare create such a monopoly, in England or in Scotland; and bear with me, my Lord, when I assure your Lordship that our feelings are as keen, our pride as sensitive, as those of Englishmen or Scotchmen. Break up this monopoly, and capital would flow into our mines, and the mines would furnish not only employment for Railroads, but give an impetus to our Coasting and Foreign Trade.

Nova-Scotians have seen £20,000,000 not lent, but given, to their fellow Colonists in the West Indies. They admired the spirit which overlooked pecuniary considerations in view of great principles of national honour and humanity. But by that very act they lost, for a time, more than would make this Railroad.—Their commerce with the West Indies was seriously deranged by the change, and the consumption of Fish, their great staple, largely diminished.

If money is no object when the national honor is at stake in the West Indies, why should it be in British America? If the emancipation of 800,000 Blacks is a moral obligation, to be redeemed at the cost of £20,000,000, surely a territory, which now contains double the number of Whites, attached British subjects, and which will ultimately contain ten times that number, is worth risking a million or two to preserve.

The national bounties of France and America my Lord, also place Nova Scotia in a false and unfavorable position. These bounties are not aimed at our industry, but at British naval supremacy. Yet they subject us to an unfair competition upon the sea, as galling as is the mineral and metallic monopoly upon the land.

For every quintal of fish a Frenchman catches his Government pays him 10 francs, or 8s. 4d. sterling, and every man and boy employed receives 59 francs for every voyage besides. For every ton of shipping an American employs in the Fishery, his Government pays him 20s. per ton. Nova-Scotia juts into the seas which the French and American fishermen, thus stimulated, occupy. If she were a French Province, or an American State, not only would she participate in those bounties but she would fit out and own, in addition to her present fleet, at least 1000 fishing craft, which now come from foreign ports into the waters by which she is surrounded, and subject her people to a species of competition in which the advantages are all on one side.

The manner in which Nova-Scotia has extended her fisheries in the face of this competition; the hardy race she has reared upon her sea coast; the value of craft employed, and of export furnished, speak volumes for the enterprise and industry of her people. Yet every Nova-Scotian fisherman toils with this conviction daily impressed upon his mind:—If I were a Frenchman my profits would be secure. I would be in a position equal to that of an American; far superior to that of a Colonist. If I was an American, I would have a bounty sufficient to cover the risk of my outfit, and besides have a boundless free market for the sale of my fish, extending from Maine to California, which is now half-closed to me by nearly prohibitory duties."

The British Government could break down these bounties at once, by equalizing them. The Mother Country owes it to her Northern Provinces to try the experiment, if they cannot be removed by negotiation. But suppose she does not;—suppose that having done my best to draw attention to the claims of those I have the honour to represent, I return to them without hope, how long will high spirited men endure a position in which their loyalty subjects their mines to monopoly—their fisheries to unnatural competition—