

that of conspiracy against the life of our common country, when we find the names of men, who in all the private relations of life hold, and have always held, an unsullied reputation, associated with all that is basest and blackest in character, it is difficult to believe either one's eyes or ears. We hear the words, treachery, venality, and bribery, broadly and boldly allied with the names of not a few of our public men. These reckless slanders are among the objections to Union, and could they be brought home against any man among us, though this infamy would not indeed affect the merits of the question one way or another, it would most justly consign to everlasting contempt the person who would stoop so low. But though these accusations are repeated every day, no attempt is made, and apparently no intention entertained, of bringing home the disgrace to any one. It will be well to remember who make such accusations. No one knows, no one ventures under his signature, or in open day to prefer the charge and say, I hold here the proofs in my hand. The abuse is, to the disgrace of our press, to be found only in our Colonial newspapers, and can be traced to no one, or at least to no one who has a reputation or a character to lose. Vile words assuredly prove nothing but the vileness of those who give them circulation; and all that I ask, from the people of this Province, is a frank and unprejudiced consideration of the facts stated, and a verdict according to the evidence.

I ask them to look at the character, and enquire into the history of some of the men, to whose names the terms schëmer, traitor, and other creations of a foul imagination, have been appended; and, having done so, look for the accusers, and having put both side by side, ask, and try to find out, which are the more respectable. Such charges cannot affect the character or influence of those against whom they are levelled, for the very sufficient reason that that character is their best refutation. It is quite true, we believe, that there are several members of both Houses of the Legislature, who hesitated, and were in doubt for some time, as to the benefit that Union would confer upon the Provinces; and while they felt thus, they opposed, and very properly opposed, the premature pressure of the question. But what honorable man would venture on that account to bring a charge of baseness and venality against these men, because, with a change of circumstances,