

of three and a half millions, equal to the whole debt of the United States at the end of the first six months of the late war for a population of thirty-five millions; and yet, as if that debt was not large enough, measures had already been adopted, and were in process of being adopted, which would add to this debt almost unlimited liabilities. The burden might not be very severely felt at present, but let these liabilities be incurred when pinching hard times come, and the people of Canada found that they had not realized the prosperity which was promised, they would begin to consider that it would have been well for themselves had they listened in time to the remonstrances of Nova Scotia. It had been said that if Nova Scotia were out of the Union, she would be worse off than she now is. The last three years the debt of Nova Scotia had been more than doubled. It would seem that from the time the delegates assembled in Quebec until it was finally consummated in England, the men governing that Province set themselves deliberately to ruin the Province of Nova Scotia, by bringing it into such a position of debt and embarrassment through a variety of mad schemes that it would have no alternative but to submit to Confederation. This was a gloomy picture, but if Nova Scotia were separate from the Dominion, she would at least have the liberty to manage her own debt in her own way; and her recuperative power and rapidly increasing prosperity would soon enable her to overcome any temporary difficulty. The Minister of Finance had stated that on the 30th of June next Nova Scotia would have received from the Dominion \$600,000 more than she had contributed to the Dominion Treasury. He would not inquire now if that statement was correct or not, but if it were true he would ask what advantage was Canada to gain by compelling Nova Scotia to remain in the Union? The people of Nova Scotia disliked the Union, not merely because of itself or its financial consequences, but because of the mode in which it was thrust upon them. The question was not now one of comparative advantages, but it was a question of human liberty, of political freedom, of right and wrong, on which he asked the House to express an opinion. He asked the House to consider what might be the consequence if the appeal of Nova Scotia was refused? If the delegation to England returned with an unfavourable answer, the people in some parts of the Province becoming exasperated might determine to resist the

laws of this Dominion, might determine no longer to pay its Custom duties. He said this not by way of threat but by way of warning. The non-payment of Dominion Customs was a matter which had been fully discussed through the Province. Suppose in the excited state of feeling which would be produced by want of success of the mission of the delegates this should be carried out, and suppose that in the enforcement of the laws some persons were arrested. Suppose the populace effected a rescue! Suppose the troops were called out and blood shed, what would be the state of things that would follow? Small in number as the population of Nova Scotia might be, still they numbered 350,000, the descendants of Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen, who have been trained to believe and know that they had a right to control their own destinies. He said this in no spirit of disloyalty, but the House would be wonderfully blind if it refused to look at such probabilities. It should be remembered, too, that from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia there had gone forth to the United States many thousands and tens of thousands of young men who were now watching anxiously the tendency of events in their native Provinces. When these men saw their own people restrained by force of arms, driven into political connections which they despised and abhorred, and that blood had been shed in restraining them, what would be the result? not the raid of a rabble horde as in the Fenian affair, but the invasion and uprising of many thousands of the best blood of the Province. Such an expedition would only end in ruin and disaster, but it was a result which should be avoided by every means in the power of those who wished well to British interests on this continent. He had every confidence in appealing to the House to give the resolution, he had now the honour to submit, a calm and careful consideration.

Hon. Mr. Johnson wished to know if the honourable gentleman from Lunenburg understood what he had been talking about? Did he not know that it required the same power to undo as was required to do? and that if he wanted to repeal the Union it could be done not by this Legislature, but by the Imperial Parliament? He went on to contend that the argument of the member for Lunenburg, that because a large portion of the people of Nova Scotia opposed the Union, it should be repealed, was fallacious. It was a fact of more importance that nine-tenths of