

time for us to speak out on this subject, and it is from a Nova Scotian point of view that it is proposed to examine the question.

The present is a time for careful thought and reflection by all who feel interested in the welfare of their country. It is the crisis in our history,—the turning point in our fortunes,—an occasion which calls for the exercise of great caution and careful deliberation. Our present position is one of increasing prosperity at home, and good credit abroad. Let us be careful how we choose another path.

If the results of the proposed change are to be as beneficial as the speeches of Canadian statesmen, and editorials in the larger number of our newspapers, would have us believe, they would assuredly not be diminished by a reasonable delay. On the other hand, should it be found on examination that the arguments used in its favor are not so sound as they appear at first sight, how much reason shall we not have to rejoice, that we did not hurriedly adopt measures never to be undone, or form new connexions never to be broken?

It is not to the purpose here, to go into the whole subject from its initiation, or to recapitulate the reasons which from time to time, during the last few years, have been advanced to prove to us that a Union of the Provinces is absolutely necessary to our future well-being, and even existence. These reasons may be reduced to four leading ones.

1st.—Mutual defence.

2nd.—Rapid growth of Commerce.

3rd.—Intercolonial Railway.

4th.—National importance.