

foundland enter the confederation—and of that there exists scarcely the shadow of a doubt, we shall remain in our cold and repulsive isolation—without the countenance or sympathy of a single sister colony. Nor is that all: we shall compel those who direct Her Majesty's councils to do that which they strongly deprecate—not indeed (in contravention of their avowed purpose) to *coerce* us to become a constituent branch of the Confederation, but, to assign us a relation to it far less desirable than an honorable partnership. It seems preposterous to imagine that when the other Colonies come under a local *regime*, a department in the Home Government will still be kept up, solely for the accommodation of this Island. Such an expectation is too extravagant to be entertained. Who then can contemplate the alternative without humiliation and shame! Do we prefer subordination to equality?—a relation of suppliant dependence to the conscious dignity of full participation in the control, the honors, and the advantages of a potent Vice-Royalty? That certainly were a species of voluntary humility, revolting to every sentiment of becoming self-respect—a sacrifice without even a *show* of wisdom to disguise its imbecility.

Whatever may be the issue, I shall never, I trust, have cause to regret the presentation of this unostentatious offering to the unity and consolidation of British North America,—the field of my labors for almost half a century. Fully aware that on the subject of this Plea, the sentiments of my