

this province, and telling us how much we had to be grateful for, why we could not withal cultivate the virtue of contentment. But they tell us that there are circumstances outside of our own borders that prevent the continuance of these things. In the first place, we have been told that there is a disposition on the part of England to cast us adrift. It is hardly necessary to spend much time on that part of the subject, because opinionous lately propounded in the British parliament show that there is a determination on the part of Great Britain to preserve her colonies so long as they remain loyal to the crown of England. We naturally expected this declaration. We have seen that the expansion and maintenance of colonies has been the policy which England has pursued from time immemorial, and it is that which has given her her proudest title—"mistress and sovereign of the sea." In the many long years of struggle with other powers to obtain that title, it was not so much the staunchness of her ships, or the bravery of her crews, as from the training to the seas which those crews acquired in the wide commerce afforded by colonies. Before passing away from this part of the subject, I may add it is still more unlikely that England should have adopted this policy of abandoning her colonies at a time when her great rival France has adopted it, and in every part of the habitable globe, where she can obtain a foothold, is planting colonies that she too may have a widely extended commerce—that she may train from their youth a large number of her people to "go down upon the seas in ships, to do business upon the mighty waters," and thus prepare them for that magnificent navy she is building. Again, England requires, in large quantities, the products of the American continent, and it would be impolitic to allow a foreign power to control all these products. When Louis Napoleon took possession of Mexico, and made of her a virtual dependency of France, he said, "We have an interest indeed in the republic of the United States being prosperous and powerful; but not that she should take possession of the whole gulf of Mexico, thence to command the Antilles as well as South America and to be the only dispenser of the products of the New World." If this be the policy of Napoleon—if he felt an anxiety that no foreign power should control the products of a continent, how much more is it the interest of England that a foreign power shall not have the entire command of products essential to her existence. England has justly been called the "workshop of the world," but in materials for manufacture she procures from other countries the value of over one hundred millions of pounds sterling, while one third of her people receive the food upon which they live from abroad. Hence it is vastly more important to England than to France, whose

necessities in those particulars is not so great, that no one power should control the grain and material for manufacture produced by the continent of America. Therefore I feel that circumstances do not warrant any man in saying that it is the intention of England to cast these colonies off. Earl Russell said a few years ago—"I firmly believe it is our duty, to maintain our great and valuable Colonial empire," while Earl Grey added; "I believe that much of the power and influence of this country depends upon having large Colonial possessions in different parts of the world;" and but a few days ago we saw the same expression of opinion as delivered by Lord Palmerston.

So I feel it was unwarranted for any gentleman to say that it was the intention or policy of England to cast these colonies adrift. But we are told that we are in danger of being wrested from Great Britain, that there are a number of circumstances existing in the United States which endanger the connection with the parent state. I cannot help admiring the zeal with which the hon gentlemen who are advocating this Confederation have been blowing the War Trumpet. They tell us that the King of Terrors who has been holding high carnival in the valleys of the Shenandoah, will soon come to a grand banquet in the valleys of Nova Scotia. When the Pro. Secy. drew a picture of this in addressing the house, I thought I saw his cheek pale, but at the time it occurred to me that possibly the direction in which the hon. gentleman was looking had something to do with this. He was looking at Mr. Tilley from New Brunswick, who was sitting outside the benches, and perhaps there ran through his mind all that had grown out of the resolution moved by him last year.—That through his action and instrumentality that able statesman had been hurled from his position—politically slain—and that when the Pro. Secy's cheek blanched it was because he felt that "Banquo's ghost" was sitting at the feast. Subsequently when the hon. delegate from South Colchester, in "blowing the war trumpet," exhibited a tremor of voice unusual to him, I had to acknowledge that both these hon. gentlemen were really alarmed at the terrors they pictured. That the "great Wizards" who went "North" were terrified at the apparition they had conjured up to frighten honest folks. We read in fabled story of the sculptor who wrought from a block of marble a statue of Jupiter armed; and when he had finished and looked upon the workmanship of his own hands was overwhelmed with terror. So are these hon. gentlemen overcome by the workings of their own imaginations.

We are told by these gentlemen danger is really imminent, that it will come upon us suddenly; then, I ask, is it the course of wise men to undertake a change in our constitutional administration that will require years to perfect. Why the instincts of the lowest