

Thus Newfoundland has come to remain alone, and thus has been excited the spirit of resentment against Canada. That spirit is losing its bitterness, for the people show that they are not unwilling to listen to reasonable and intelligent discussion of the advantages, and disadvantages, to be derived from union. But there are two things which greatly militate against the final disappearance of prejudice and which keep ill-feeling rankling.

Whenever, in the past, Canada could,—and it seems that has been often—she has stood in the way of Newfoundland, as, for instance in reciprocity treaties with the United States. Newfoundland has had to give up projects on account of Canada's interference. The people have felt that they have been wronged in their liberty as an independent colony. And, if there is one thing dear to Newfoundlanders, it is the freedom born of that sea from which most of them draw their livelihood. To them it is irksome in the extreme to feel fettered by Canada. They will be free, and they resent every encroachment on their freedom.

The other means by which ill-will is kept alive is the constant misrepresentation and slander, which is going on, on both sides of the Gulf. This slander is much the more grievous on the side of Canada, and it is grievous enough on the side of Newfoundland. It must be put down in great part to ignorance of the real conditions in the Island, for even prominent men in Canada often display in their utterances and writings an entire misapprehension of these conditions. But, still, it shows also a spirit of bitterness, and certainly it begets, and adds to bitterness. The country, which, in the midst of its hopeless plight, refused rescue from Canada, to show her that she had not to do with a beggar, will not stand to have her people called a population of beggars, ignorant and spiritless, who constantly truckle to the United States. Canadians generally may not know that some of their public men give expression to such opinions, but Newfoundlanders know it, and know their falsehood too.

I have tried to give roughly the principal causes of whatever ill-feeling exists in Newfoundland against Canada. It must not be thought that the ill-feeling is universal. There are, and always have been, many of the people who look with kindly eyes towards the Dominion. There are some who ardently wish for Confederation. There is many an Anti-Confederate whose mind is entirely free from