

retorted flippantly, "So much the worse then for the British connection." The Premier asks permission from the Imperial Government to withdraw from the Union with Canada, and return to the *status* of a province of Great Britain with full control over all fiscal laws and tariff regulations such as prevailed previous to 1867. A provincial 'Home Ruler' writes, 'We want Nova Scotia for the Nova Scotians, and the dear old flag of England to wave over us. . . . We will be loyal to our Queen, as Nova Scotians always have been.' 'We ask for nothing,' declares the *Chronicle* of the 5th of June, 'inconsistent with true loyalty to the British throne—nothing that may not be granted by the British Government on a full hearing of the case.'

This is not the language of rebels or demagogues.

Let us not, then, grudge our sympathy to our fellow-subjects, the more so as we too have had not a few struggles for freedom, political and commercial, and seem likely to have more. Nova Scotians, moreover, can claim an illustrious parentage which it might be churlish to leave out of account. It is not so much their Anglo-Scandinavian or French descent I have in mind, as that nearer ancestry, the 'United Empire Loyalists,' who, a century ago, gave up everything rather than live in the revolted American colonies under a new and alien flag, and whose story—seldom, I fear, read here, where the stuff which is called history treats far oftener of dynasties and wars, than of heroes and heroines who renounce home, employment, wealth, kindred, and friends for conscience sake—is one as affecting as it is worthy of admiration. These were the people who settled the then wilderness of Ontario, and sought refuge in the West Indies, New Brunswick, and elsewhere, very many coming to Nova Scotia, where their justly proud descendants keep green their honoured memory, and do it special reverence on St. George's Day.³ Even in the present struggle these ancestors are not forgotten, as Mr Weeks, M.P.P., showed when he said, 'Descended from a race who sacrificed their estates and shed their blood for that which they then considered the sacred cause of British connection, I would be the last to lightly regard or easily discard the sentiment of loyalty to the crown of England which every true Englishman should feel.'

And to come down to present times: may we not be proud that Nova Scotia's hardy sailors—true descendants of the ancient stock—are found all the world over, and that through their enterprise their native province counts for size and population chief among maritime powers? Do we not owe to her the 'hero of Kars' and Sir R. H. Inglis, the first Cunard, the eminent geologist Sir William Dawson,

³ In May 1883, when the Centenary of the 'U.E.L.'s' departure from the now United States was celebrated in the Dominion with much *éclat*, the spirited people of St. John, N.B., had a procession through their streets, in which the quaint costumes of 1783 were worn, and an old stage coach and other curiosities formed interesting features.