

the country has for a still longer period enjoyed the opportunity of discussing the expediency of the projected Union.

11. It is not my province, and I have no mission to do more than afford you the amplest and freest scope for consideration of a proposal which seriously involves your own prospects, and in reference to which you should be competent to interpret the wishes and determine the true interests of the country. I feel assured, however, that whatever be the result of your deliberations, you will deprecate attempts to treat in a narrow spirit, or otherwise than with dispassionate care and prudence, a question so broad, that in reality it covers the ground of all parties and precludes it from becoming the measure of merely one Government or one party.

12. I need only observe further, without in the least intending thereby to influence your ultimate determination, that it is obviously convenient, if not essential, for the Legislatures of all the Provinces concerned to observe uniformity in the mode of ascertaining their respective decisions on a question common to all. I have, therefore, desired to be laid before you some correspondence between the Governor General and myself on that point.

13. Scarcely less important or urgent is the question of internal defence. Much progress was made last year in the general enrolment of the Militia force of the colony, which numbered upwards of 56,000 men; of whom nearly 42,000 turned out for inspection and drill. When the heavy, direct tax, paid by those men and also by the Volunteers, both in time and labor, is considered, we must all feel that the country owes them a special debt of gratitude.

14. Nevertheless, though they have exhibited much military aptitude, no adequate means have yet been taken to render effective the excellent material of that large force. Without arms, accoutrements, uniforms, or any advantage except a few hours drill in each year, a succession of years similarly employed would teach them little more. A step in advance is necessary to fit them for the most ordinary service in the field. This Province can no longer expect to contribute for its defence only a fortieth part of the annual disbursements of Her Majesty's Commissariat chest at Halifax. Nor do I for a moment suppose you can either expect or wish the ample freedom which you enjoy here, to be always exempt from those honorable obligations which its preservation entails elsewhere.

15. I have therefore directed Estimates to be prepared for placing the Militia in a more efficient state, and feel confident that whatever may be the necessary cost, you will regard the defence of the Country not as a burthen, but a privilege and a sacred duty to be cheerfully performed.

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

16. The Public Accounts will also be submitted for your inspection, and the General Estimates be prepared with every attention to economy which the exigencies of the Public Service permit.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

17. You will, I am satisfied, have heard with regret that proceedings are in progress to terminate the Reciprocity Treaty, which has conferred such extensive benefits on the trade both of this Province and the neighboring States, whilst it has also essentially promoted the most friendly relations between the two countries. I have directed the correspondence on that subject to be laid before you.

18. Strongly impressed with the advantage of making the great natural resources of this Colony better understood in the principal commercial centres of Europe, I have promised a limited amount of aid to a Committee of Gentlemen who are now employed in securing a due representation of this Province