

it is not for a moment intended to insinuate—forget what is due to her honor and good faith, the claimants would be enabled to fall back, and to that higher authority appeal for redress for the debt due to them under the Imperial Act, the Imperial Commission and the transference from the original creditor to them. In that case they would be compelled to shew, what they are well aware of in all its details, but which has not here been touched upon, the personal and unworthy motives which have entered into the opposition that has deceived the Government into its otherwise unaccountable delay in the payment of its acknowledged and long matured obligation. That such a course should indeed become necessary, they, however, entertain no apprehension—for this Dominion will never be permitted to fall into *the position of communities where personal intrigue can tamper with public honor*, or the public creditor be defrauded of his due and a public debt repudiated to gratify the malice, the caprice, or what any man, however high he may be, may think to be his individual advantage;—in that—most unexpected event, however, the claimants undoubtedly would avail themselves of an appeal to the higher security of the original source of the obligation in the most perfect confidence that their grievance would be remedied, the debt paid and a benefit conferred upon the Dominion—if so far forgetful of a just obligation as to render this possible—by an example that would not bear repetition, while to any one who, for the purposes indicated, had brought discredit upon her, the only possible result would be found in *personal dishonor and political death*.

88. Frequent references made to New Brunswick, in these remarks, in any way seeming to reflect upon that Province, must be understood simply to apply to those who, at one time or another, have secured the reins of Government to her misfortune. The people of New Brunswick are as high minded and honorable as any in this Dominion and as able and willing to pay their just debts. It was not the people of New Brunswick who first inflicted the grievous wrong in which the present difficulty originated, and aggravated it by the greatest interprovincial discourtesy, but a set of irresponsible men who controlled her affairs in defiance of popular opinion: and it was only after the overturning of the old order of things in 1854-5 that popular opinion was first brought to bear upon this matter and that measure of justice initiated, the full fruition of which has been prevented, and even the compensation Canada has been willing to pay, out of her own money due by New Brunswick, retarded through means and influences it is to be hoped that it may never become necessary to scandalise the public ear by exposing.

Praying therefore for speedy payment of this long overdue debt and such compensation for the outlay and delay incurred in prosecuting it, as may be just and reasonable—the foregoing is

*Respectfully submitted,

JAMES TIBBITS.

* In the evidence taken before the Commission an entirely new feature in the case was brought to light viz: that New Brunswick did not make a correct return to the Cutler and Dawson Commission of the revenues collected from the disputed territory. It appears that the true revenue she derived from the timber cut on the disputed territory was levied in the shape of an export duty, and this was collected on all that timber in addition to the "fines and penalties" but was not accounted for to the Commission. By the true spirit of the Cutler and Dawson report therefore, the whole of the "fines and penalties" (instead of a part constituting the excess over "full duties") should have been refunded and the "full duties" collected upon export should have passed into the joint fund. This is a grave question for New Brunswick, but of course it cannot affect the present issue as it stands.