

The path of duty, therefore, is plain before us, and it lies happily in the same direction with that of our honor and our interest. No man who is not a Republican in heart, but will indignantly resent any interference with our liberty of action as a people, or even the shadow of dictation, on the part of a foreign power. Our policy is one of peace, of industry, and good neighborhood; our desire to gather in and consolidate our strength—to utilise our resources, and assimilate our constitution, as far as possible, with that of the Empire of which we are proud to form a part.

A noble inheritance is now at our disposal; let us not be tempted, like the thoughtless or credulous prodigal, lightly to cast it from us. Isolation found and has kept us weak, and battling for mere existence till the present hour. Union opens up fresh fields of enterprise and profit, offers us a tempting and honorable present, and assures us of a glorious future,—a future which will, within the lifetime of the present generation, witness Halifax as a first class city, with its noble harbor crowded with shipping from every part of the globe; will find Cape Breton dotted with mines, and her fertile fields in the highest state of cultivation; will see the mineral resources of the Eastern Counties expanding themselves into manufactories of every description; while the fertile valleys and meadow lands of the West will supply the market of the capital, and bring a comfort and wealth to their owners which they never knew before, rendering them independent of foreign tariffs.

Such are the advantages which Union offers, and which it will extend to every class and to every branch of industry. We ask our people, one and all, to hail it as they would a deliverer, and to close with it as a boon of priceless value, and to feel that a debt of gratitude is due to the men whose untiring efforts have at length secured it, and handed it over to their country, an enduring proof of their ability and pledge of their patriotism.

Such are my convictions of the merits of Union, as applied to this Province, convictions earnestly expressed, deeply and sincerely felt—too deeply to permit me to indulge either in flippant invective, or in personal attack. I appeal to my fellow Colonists to approach the subject in the same spirit; to sift it with candor, and decide by the light of fact and argument, not of preconceived opinion or prejudice. I now leave the subject in their hands, and all that I would ask in its behalf is a fair and unbiassed deliverance.