

80 and 100 miles. It is larger than Scotland, more than double the extent of Holland, and the like of Belgium, and at least a third larger than Denmark; and is capable of containing and supporting a population of five or six millions; so that it does not require union with Canada, in regard to an increased amount of population, and as to numerical force, being made capable of defence against any hostile attacks. There are few countries in the world of the like extent, having a coast on which there are so many safe and excellent harbours for vessels of all descriptions, and where there are such various and extensive fields of mineral wealth; including coal in such abundance as would supply even the whole American continent for ages; also iron in many places, as well as gold and copper. The soil, though not in general so rich and fertile as that of Western Canada, yet, in many parts, is of a very productive quality. The population at the last census in 1861, was 330,000, and now must be something over 360,000, and of varieties of national origin—chiefly Scotch, Irish, English, American, and German. As to *intelligence*, they are fully equal, or even superior, to the population of any of the other Provinces; and may on that point challenge comparison with the people of any part of the world. They are a high-spirited people, and very *sensitive* as to any attempted violation of their natural and civil rights and interests.

At the first agitation and proposal of this General Confederation the population generally, throughout this Province, were adverse to it—and that *aversion* has ever since been becoming more extended and intense, so much so, that *now* it may confidently be asserted that on the whole *seven-eighths* or more, and in some sections the population to but a *mere fraction* are most keenly opposed to it. In the parliamentary session of 1865, numerous signed petitions were constantly being presented against it from every part of the Province, occasionally half-a-dozen or more on a day. There must have been between 50 and 100 of such petitions during that session, and but a solitary one in favour of the project. The provincial government—the same as now in power—did not dare to take a decisive question upon it, but by the preamble of a resolution on another subject, declared a *General Confederation to be impracticable*. Since the commencement of public discussion on the subject, *three elections* for Members of Parliament have been held, on all of which the proposed Union was the *test question*; and in all,