

eventual Confederation with the Dominion: and, furthermore, that the idea, so far as the transmission of British interests and influences are concerned, it is the greatest idea enunciated for a century. I have already told you, in my correspondence with the Colonist, how the configuration of the upper country points naturally to this result, for I really believe it would not cost more to take a railroad to-day from Yalo through the Horse-fly country to the Rocky Mountains than it has already cost to build one from Sacramento to the Summit of the Sierra Mountains, though only something over 200 miles. Thus, \$20,000,000, I believe, of the original stock is gone. I do not think the most salient points in favor of Confederation have been presented to you, neither do I think it has been discussed entirely free from personal prejudices and old political proclivities. Now, it seems to me, any measure having for its object ostensibly the perpetuity of England's greatness, by insuring the prosperity of her Colonies, should receive the respectful attention of every British subject. Now, Confederation cannot be understood without discussing the encroachments made on our Asiatic interests by the aggressive spirit of the Americans since their establishment upon this coast; nor do I refer to that spirit, because I fear it, but to induce the English, if possible, to imitate it. In fifteen years, they have done more in overcoming the national prejudices of the Japanese by the potent influence of commerce, than we have done from the other side in fifty years by the means of treaties and salt-petre; and to-day, from their proximity to Japan, by their establishment at San Francisco and with their Overland Railroad, they contest with us in no mean manner the supremacy of dominion on the Pacific, and threaten seriously to wrest from our grasp a large portion of the rich trade of the Orient; for you may be assured, if they once firmly get a foothold in Japan, they will advance further. How then can they be checked? I answer, by immediate Confederation with Canada. The real lover of his country, and the real statesman, will not view this question simply by the immediate good Confederation would do this Colony, although that is a view you cannot and ought not to overlook; he must view it to understand it properly as an English as well as a Colonial question. It is by these great results the welfare of this country will be best subserved. We can only check the American encroachment upon our Eastern trade by imitating their example on the Pacific, and we can only do that through this Colony. Force this view upon the English and they will see at once what they ought to have seen long ago—that this Colony, next to Australia, is the most important possession England has. This, it may be said, is simply raising a future issue, that may or may not come to pass, while we want immediate relief. What more, pray, do the opponents of Confederation offer by asking you to wait than a future issue, without investing the claims of the Colony with new interest? I know very well the Colony