

ples, applicable to the whole Empire, would be evolved by every fresh discussion.

I come now to your reference to our Mines and Minerals, and I cannot but express my surprise at the *ad captandum* and flippant style in which you have discussed a subject of such importance. You used to have a keen eye for a grievance, but I fear prosperity has clouded your vision. You used to strain at a gnat, and now you can scarcely see a camel.

Let me suppose that all the Mines and Minerals beneath the surface of England, Ireland, and Scotland, except what lay under land granted seventy years after the first settlement of either kingdom, had been improvidently granted away to a Royal Duke, transferred to his creditors, and were held at this hour in close monopoly by a Company which only worked two or three over the whole broad surface of the three kingdoms. How long would such a monopoly last, in presence of that Parliament which has abolished the Slave Trade, the Rotten Boroughs, the Corn Laws, and the exclusive privileges of the East India Company? Not a year. Yet this is the grievance of Nova Scotia.

You argue that, because the Legislature gave corporate powers to the Mining Association, and because an old Parliamentary report acknowledged that their operations had been beneficial up to a certain time, that therefore this lease should not be disturbed. But had the East India