

To the People of Newfoundland :

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN,—

As the question of Confederation with the other British North American Colonies is one which will undoubtedly be brought at an early period before the Legislature and people of this Island for decision, one way or the other, I have, in the absence of any attempt by others, undertaken the task of drawing your attention especially to the subject, by means of this short Pamphlet.

My intention is to do so in as clear and simple a form as I can command, and with as much brevity as the subject will admit.

I may say for myself, as those who know me and judge me fairly will believe, that if in this matter selfishness can in any way be attributed to me, it is regard for a self-interest which is dependent upon the good which must accrue to that common country of which I am a Native, and of whose people I am one, having no interest and no hope or aspiration outside or beyond it and them ; and I would, if for this reason alone, advocate nothing but what I believe to be for the public advantage. I say this much, because I am aware how ready some are for the sake of damaging those and impugning the acts and language of those they have an interest in injuring or opposing, to attribute false and selfish motives. Not that there is any argument in this kind of imputation, for the question is not whether any particular man or men have self-interest in view, or are likely to benefit more than some others. The question in controversy will remain the same. Is it good or is it bad? What are the arguments on one side and the other, and what are the conclusions to be drawn from these reasons?

To these introductory remarks I would add that as one motive for the publication of this Review, I am prompted as a politician by a desire not to be misunderstood or misinterpreted by the people of the country, and my constituents in particular, whose interests I represent, and whose welfare as such is in this matter my chief concern.