

item, with that enterprising nation. The gross amount of tonnage now owned by the Provinces is more than half a million, which is exceeded by only three nations of the world, viz., England, the United States, and Russia.

Thus a comparison of the means, the population, and the maritime resources of these infant dependancies of the British empire, with those of other and older countries, better known, and with far greater advantages, will afford no unfavorable contrast; and what has been already effected, proves as well the enterprise of their inhabitants, as the results that may be expected from an adequate increase in their wealth and population.

Before dismissing this subject, we may remark on the expediency of a union of these five Provinces, on one of the bases before suggested. There appear to be many reasons why such a union would be beneficial to the whole, and would remove various impediments to their prosperity. At present, the currency differs in almost every colony; the post offices are subject to separate management, and there is a consequent want of accordance in the arrangements; duties are imposed on some articles of inter-colonial manufacture, as well as on all foreign goods carried from one to the other, and these are found most vexatious and harassing to the merchant. There is a total absence of uniformity or system in the price of land, as well as in the manner of obtaining it; the head money payable on the emigrant's arrival in the respective sea ports, and the quarantines to which they are subject, scarcely agree in any two Provinces; and the emigrants themselves, hardly knowing a distinction between one Province and the other, are puzzled and discouraged at the very outset of their career, by these minor but vexatious difficulties. Much might be said of the power and standing in the great family of the world, which such a union would give to British North America; of the influence she, as a whole, would thus possess in the general councils and politics of Britain, and of the advantages that would accrue to every individual in being a member of a powerful State entitled to equal consideration with any of the more distant portions of the Empire, instead of the denizen of an obscure and scarcely known colony, too small to be of any apparent importance in the scale of power—bearing but an insignificant relative value, isolated and alone, to the other members of the great Nation to which it belongs. All these advantages have been ably urged by some of the most eminent colonial statesmen of the day, and especially in the Nova Scotia Legislature, and they are deserving of the utmost attention. If, however, a General Union of the whole, whether Federal or Legislative, should be considered beyond their grasp, or if any fear should be entertained that these smaller governments should be eclipsed and overwhelmed by their more extensive and powerful sister on the west, surely a union of the three Lower Provinces might be brought about, and thus much of the custom house, postal and other difficulties would be avoided. The example, however, of the American Federal Union, in which Rhode Island, and the other minor States, preserve their due share of power and consideration, would seem to prove that there exists no real and insuperable difficulty to the consolidation of the whole of the British Colonies into one powerful body.