

annexationist, or traitor could be found within our ranks, every man of that class openly proclaimed their sympathy with the opponents of Union. Although this Confederation is entirely safe from the assaults of all I cannot be indifferent to the injury that may be inflicted upon us among those, who do not understand the question by such speeches as that delivered by the honourable member for Hants to-night. The avowed hostility to the Union will encourage those who are anxious for our downfall, and the declaration by a member of this House that we are weak and defenceless will invite aggression. No statement could be more unfounded or injurious than the assertion that the Mother Country wishes to get rid of us. It is true that neither in the Lords or Commons of England, whose action on this question has been so severely criticised by my honourable friend, was any attempt made to change the measure as arranged between the representatives of these Provinces and the British Government, but it is well known that no Colonial question ever received more respectful attention at the hands of the statesmen, of the Parliament and the Press of England than was bestowed upon this question of Confederation from the time that it was first brought under their notice until its final consummation. The effect of a settled and permanent condition of public affairs upon capital is well known, and while I feel confident that this agitation will be utterly bootless of any result; it will in the meantime largely prevent the introduction, especially in Nova Scotia, of the population, capital and skill that would otherwise immediately flow in to develop the resources and enrich that section of the Union. I appeal to my honourable friend whether it is patriotic to inflict such injury upon his country. Having made these explanations I feel it would not be right at this late hour to trespass on the indulgence of the House, or I would read a few elegant extracts from the vigorous pen and eloquent tongue of my honourable friend, to show how much more able and eloquent he was when advocating the Union of these Provinces, than since he adopted the unworthy policy of endeavouring to belittle and depreciate his own country. (Loud cries of go on.) I will now briefly notice a few of the criticisms which my honourable friend offered this evening. He complains that the salary assigned to the Governor-General is £10,000 sterling. I think if we contrast the salary formerly given to that high officer before the great step which the Union of the Maritime Prov-

[Dr. Tupper (Cumberland)]

inces has given to the former Colony of Canada, the amount will not be found disproportionate. It must be remembered that this officer is the connecting link with the Crown, and the representative of Majesty in this important part of the Empire, and that we could hardly expect to obtain the services of the leading statesmen of England at any smaller amount. My honourable friend complains of the number of Departments in the Government. It was no doubt necessary in making provision for the proper representation of the different sections of the Confederation to have the thirteen Departments, but I would suggest respectfully to the Honourable Minister of Justice whether in the present peculiar position of Nova Scotia, the able and indefatigable Minister of State for Canada might not be charged with the additional duty of the Secretary of State for the Provinces. The vacancy created by the resignation of the Honourable Minister of Finance might in the same way lead to the consolidation of that Department with those of the able and experienced Ministers of Customs and Excise. I am well assured that Her Majesty's Government will give these questions the most careful consideration, well knowing that nothing will give greater confidence to the country than a judicious economy in the administration of public affairs. My honourable friend now represents our position as utterly defenceless, and treats with ridicule the proposal to arm the militia, yet he ought not to forget the following passage of his speech in our Legislature, so long ago as 1854:

How often have we heard that our republican neighbours were going to overrun the Provinces. They have attempted it once or twice, but have always been beaten out, and I do not hesitate to say that the British Americans, over whom the flag flies, are able to defend every inch of their territory, even though Her Majesty's troops were withdrawn.

Taking our population at two millions and a half (it is now nearer four millions), every fifth person should be able to draw a trigger, giving 500,000 men capable of bearing arms. Such a force would be powerless as an invading army, but in defence of these Provinces invincible by any force that could be sent from abroad.

The opinions of the honourable member would also appear to have undergone material change since 1863, when in moving a vote of thanks at Halifax to the Hon. McGee for his eloquent advocacy of a Union of the Colonies, he thus urged its great importance on the ground of defence:

He thought a Union should not be delayed till we had drifted into difficulties. How shortsighted were the English statesmen of old who lost them the