

our fisheries, and to threaten war, the same paper pointed out that we were an integral part of the Empire, and that at the first movement in the direction of war the British fleet would destroy all the coast cities of the United States. When the President threatened non-intercourse, the same paper pointed out clearly that he could not discriminate between one part of the Empire and another, and that non-intercourse with us meant commercial war with Great Britain too. In other words, the present union is nominal when it suits us, and real when it suits us. We run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. There is not much dignity in such a position. It has hardly the merit of impudence. It is simply childish. Is it too much to ask the gentlemen of the press who discuss this question to calmly consider these two questions: Ought we to ask for the service of a fleet for which we do not pay a cent? and is it not our right to ask for a share in the direction of the fleet which protects our coasts and our commerce?

As to the amount of our influence in Imperial matters, that would depend on our population, our contribution to Imperial expenditure, the reasonableness of our arguments and the kind of men we grow. I think that our own history, the history in particular of my native Province and of this Province, shows that the weakest member of a particular organism may depend on getting in the long run at least its due share of influence. The Anti-Confederates of twenty or thirty years ago in Nova Scotia always asserted that the little Province down by the sea would have no influence in the Confederation, as Ontario and Quebec had ten times its population. Now, the complaint in Ontario is that from the days of Howe and Tupper to the days of Sir John Thompson, Nova Scotia has ruled the Dominion, that it gets better terms, local railways, short lines, ship railways, and everything else it asks for. Your own history proves that the Dominion Government "cannot check Manitoba." British Columbia has the smallest population of any of the Provinces, yet more public money has been spent there than anywhere else. In fact the only arguments urged against the larger Confederation are those that every one laughed at when they were used by the Anti-Confederates of the Maritime Provinces against union with Ontario and Quebec.

(f) "*An ocean separates Canada from Britain.*" That means, if it means anything more than the declaration of a well-known fact, that if there was land instead of water between Canada and