

hon. gentleman went so far as to say that Nova Scotia had not realized from the Union the advantages that was expected from it, and that to-day in the Maritime Provinces, if a vote were taken on the question of repeal, four-fifths of the people would be in favor of it. A more unwarranted and unfounded statement was never made on the floor of this House. That the extreme visions of prosperity which many may have pictured to themselves as likely to result from Confederation—the unreasonable expectations, perhaps, in some respects of the over sanguine friends of that measure—have not been realized, may be true, but that the Maritime Provinces, in common with the rest of the Dominion, have derived great advantage from the Confederation of these Provinces, no candid man with a knowledge of the facts would venture to deny. Whatever may be the condition of Nova Scotia to-day, I venture to say, and I utter not my own opinions alone, but the opinions of many who have given consideration to the question—disinterested men, men outside of the arena of politics who have no interest in saying anything that they do not believe, and are qualified to express an opinion—if it had not been for confederation Nova Scotia would not have to-day half its present population. It is true that a large number of our people go to the United States, but I know that it is equally true, though the fact is not heralded abroad by the enemies of our country (and very often those enemies are unpatriotic children of our soil) that many, many thousands of those people return wiser and sadder men. I know in the part of the country from which I come, and from which there has been a considerable exodus daily this autumn, scores of people have come back from the United States, begging their way home in many instances, and relating pitiful tales of the destitution and sufferings of those they have left behind them and who have not been fortunate enough to get the opportunity to return to their homes. The hon. gentleman's expression of opinion was not worthy of a member having a seat on the floor of this House, however little we may be surprised to find it amongst a lot of disappointed traders in the city

*Hon. Mr. Miller.*

of Halifax, whose monopoly of the trade of that province has been broken up by Confederation. But it is an opinion also which has been expressed by the party in Nova Scotia to which the hon gentleman belongs not when they are in office, but when they are out of office. When they were in office for five years, and had control of the patronage of the country, they were the most loyal men in the Dominion; now that this faction are in the cold shades of Opposition, now that they have not their hands in the public chest, now that there is no plunder to be drawn from the public treasury, they are ready to utter annexation sentiments, disloyal, repeal sentiments, or anything to suit the whim of the hour. When they were in office, and had complete control of the patronage of the local and Dominion governments, they were, I repeat, in appearance at least, loyal enough, but now that they have no prospect of grasping the reins of power for the next twenty years, they are ready to talk repeal. In relation to the port of Halifax as a winter port, I was rather amused at the remarks of my hon. friend (Mr. Power), and then he was pathetic on the injustice of placing the training ship at St. John! I think there is no injustice in doing so. I think St. John has a better claim to the training ship than Halifax, and I will tell you why. St. John possesses a much larger amount of shipping than Halifax, and I must say, not as a compliment to St. John, but as a truth wrung from me with regret, St. John possesses twice the enterprise and energy of Halifax. When anything is started with reference to Halifax, the first question the merchants there ask you is, "what will the Government do?" Why, there are a great many merchants and people who believe that the Government have nothing to do but to consider how they can squander the money of the Dominion for the benefit of Halifax, and the more you do for them, the less grateful they are, and the more you educate them into that belief. There is not in this Dominion a harbor or city that has had more done for it, and has done less for itself, than Halifax. There is not a place on this continent that has greater advantages and finer facilities for trade and