

Canada is both an agricultural and manufacturing country, and it is to her Cape Breton must look for the great necessities of life. The climate and soil of the island seem not to be adapted to the production of wheat and corn, even if there was land enough to raise the crops that will be required to sustain the large population that must eventually live within its limits. Canada will naturally look to us for the supply of coal she requires for domestic and manufacturing purposes. When the attention of capitalists has once been directed to the island, the fisheries must soon be carried on with the energy and enterprise which has been sadly wanting of late years. Our young men then will no longer go to man the Gloucester and Marblehead schooners, but will sail in vessels belonging to our own people. Establishments will start up in every place adapted for prosecuting the fisheries on a large scale. Already considerable interest is being taken in the island, and we may expect to a certainty that it will not be long hence before we shall see, in the introduction of capital and enterprise, one of the results of the recent political and commercial change which allies her so closely with the great communities of British North America. She will no longer be an isolated Island, tacked on to the little province of Nova Scotia, but will be a direct participant in all the advantages that must result from close connection with larger and wealthier countries. Would the small state of Massachusetts, or the still smaller state of Rhode Island, exhibit the evidences of great wealth and prosperity which they now do if they were isolated and unconnected with the whole system of American States? Isolated, they would in all likelihood make no more progress than Cape Breton; but from the moment they were connected with the great country to their rear, they sprang into bustling communities, and became the headquarters of an immense commerce.

The advantages that must result from close connection with the great communities of the West, ought to be obvious enough; but unfortunately a few specious issues have been raised by reckless politicians, for the purpose of misleading the masses. We hear it continually stated that the people are to be crushed by taxation, as one of the results of Union; and the existing Tariff is brought forward in illustration of this argument. It cannot be denied that the Tariff may be improved in some respects; but, taken as a whole, the burthens it imposes are not so great as those that we would have to bear, if we remained as formerly. The Railways, and other public improvements that have been made, or are in progress in Nova Scotia proper, have increased our liabilities very largely; and the light taxation which has hitherto sufficed to meet our wants, must necessarily give place to higher duties.

The connection with Nova Scotia has never been fraught with much advantage to Cape Breton. Its isolated position to the eastward has necessarily prevented it participating in the benefits of the