

one-fifth of the Revenue. This, ~~which~~ is dire necessity, may be partly the result of abuse in any ~~part~~—it exists nevertheless as an incorrigible fact, without any means of correction—without any mode for the defrayal of its expense, except from the public chest, as there are no ways in which the country can for the most part be directly taxed to discharge an obligation which in other places falls upon the landed and other property of the immediate localities where it arises. Our people require encouragement, stimulus, and better example.

The revenue of the Colony is inadequate for the public services. The balance against it has been gradually increasing. The local Debentures but a few years ago purchased at a premium, sell now at discount. It is doubtful if any Government could, without an inordinate sacrifice, raise any further amount upon the credit of the Colony in the shape of a public debt. The public expenditure can not be very largely reduced.

Under this state of affairs how much longer can any ministry sustain itself and carry on the Government of the Colony? Certainly not without a very considerable increase in the present rate of taxation—equal to, if not much exceeding anything to be anticipated from the Confederate Government, without the benefit of having free trade with the other Colonies, and subject to the disadvantages their hostile tariffs and alienation from us will render us liable to.

All this makes a dark and gloomy picture; but we must confront it boldly and in the light of truth and reason. We can not by turning its face to the wall change its dark shades into lightness and beauty. Unreasoning "Anti-Confederates on any terms" will say, how is Confederation to change the prospect? I say, a continuation of the present condition offers no hope of improvement, and that would be quite a sufficient answer. Experiment thus not only becomes justifiable, but it is forced upon us as a duty, as the present fails we are bound to try a change which can not make us worse off or more burthened than we must be without it; but I contend further, that if we can enter the Union upon the terms I am about to suggest, there is hope, nay, a certainty, of amelioration; and if an arrangement substantially approaching such terms can be effected, I cease to be an Anti-Confederate, and shall use every effort on my part to secure amalgamation.

I shall first consider the general bearing of a Union with others. Well, then, we make a change, and as I have said we are bound, if the opportunity be offered to us to try the effect