

country now impell him manfully to avow his change of sentiment, and to recommend to the people of this Island at large prompt and hearty concurrence with a plan, demanded by the exigencies of the present crisis, for the union, consolidation, and defence of the Colonies of British North America, under the impulse of enlightened loyalty, and the benign auspices of British supremacy.

Am I to be told that all this is but special pleading—in the hackneyed phrasology of Junius, 'declamation without argument and assertion without proof'? Is the gratuitous outcry of *unfair and oppressive taxation*, whiningly reiterated by designing politicians for popular effect, sufficient summarily to dispose of those and all similar considerations? Is it peremptorily demanded by the opponents of the proposed Confederation, that before we take a single step in that direction, the entire financial scheme for the sustentation and working of the embryo-nationality shall be everything that the most selfish inhabitant of this Island can covet? I have, assuredly, no objection that we ply every argument and use every legitimate effort to obtain, at the very outset, the most favorable pecuniary terms in our power; and I certainly regret that we have lost, wholly through our own fault, a signal opportunity, the wise and energetic improvement of which might have gone far to dissipate the illusion by which, on this topic, the minds of thousands are