

TO THE ELECTORS
OF THE
COUNTY OF HANTS.

MEN OF HANTS,—

In the speeches addressed to you, previous to the General Election, I almost invariably defined three lines of action:

1. To defeat the Delegates who had framed the British American Act.
2. To endeavour to get that Act repealed; and
3. Should we fail in the effort to repeal the Act, that we should endeavour to modify and improve it.

To accomplish the first I strained every nerve. Besides my labours in Hants, of which you were witnesses, I visited Archibald in Colchester, fought Tupper all round Cumberland, and in Queen's and Digby, by timely negotiations, endeavoured to establish the discipline which ensured success. Other gentlemen, who now profess to speak for the whole country, stayed at home and did nothing, outside their own counties, to secure the victory, the fruits of which they have ever since enjoyed.

You will remember that in 1867 I had laboured, in conjunction with Messrs. Annand and McDonald, for many months in England, to prevent the passage of the Act. In 1868, as a member of another Delegation, I laboured with equal zeal and energy to repeal it. On both occasions every faculty of my mind was strained to its utmost tension to accomplish objects so deeply interesting to our people, and to restore to our country the Constitution which, associated with patriotic men in the early portion of my public life, I had laboured to build up. Others might desire to defend or to restore what they believed to be valuable. I toiled with the zeal of an artist, passionately bent on guarding or recovering the work he had designed, with the parental feelings of a father struggling for the life of his own child.

Both those missions failed. That they did is not surprising, when the odds against us are calculated and taken into account; and when I returned from England in July last, it was with the full conviction that further appeals would be hopeless, and a settled determination never to go on any such errand again, unless a union of the Maritime Provinces (afterwards reported to be impracticable)