

new Confederation "will impose an unfair and overwhelming military burden on Canada." It would certainly be absurd to hope that "three millions" of Canadians could hold their own against "thirty millions" of Americans across the frontier. But this is not the proper view to take of the question of defence.

It seems reasonable to suppose that a Union would strengthen the hands of all the Provinces, while the whole powers of the Empire, military and naval, would be placed at our disposal, as promised, should the Americans desire to force us into annexation. But it may be said that we already have that protection. A Union of the Provinces with the organization of our militia on a sound footing, under a system framed for the whole; would most assuredly have the effect of obtaining increased strength, and would promote "*esprit de corps*," while the British Government would feel more interested than now, in assisting us to construct forts and guard our waters. Whether a Union of the Provinces be accomplished or not, the time has come for us to make pecuniary sacrifices for our own protection. We infinitely prefer that the proposed expenditure and liabilities should be made and incurred under a Union with our neighbors of the Maritime Provinces; and such has been the frequently expressed opinion of the leading statesmen of the present British Ministry as well as of their predecessors in office.

"Provincial bankruptcy" has been predicted for years; but in spite of every exertion to decry our credit,—and, the wish being father to the thought—to create a lack of confidence in our progress and prosperity; Canada is now in a position to avoid the misfortune of "bankruptcy." Our public works alone are estimated to be worth our debt, and the indirect advantages accruing from year to year by the expenditure of British capital, and improved trade—with increased confidence under a Union—will enable us to steer the financial ship through any breakers that may be ahead. The Maritime Provinces, as Mr. Penny is no doubt aware, are in a condition of sound material prosperity, and Canada cannot therefore suffer much financially by a Union with them.

As to the prospects of increased trade between the different parts of the Confederacy, Mr. Penny will not allow the probability of any improvement in the future.

No duties are now imposed, it is true, on articles produced in the Provinces sent to the neighboring Provinces, but the want of Railway communication has materially interfered with the development of a mutually profitable trade. Since the withdrawal of Reciprocity with the United States by the expiration of the Treaty, trade has commenced to flow into other channels; and with a thorough fiscal system under Confederation, and an Intercolonial Railway, we have every reason to hope for gradual improvement. Portland is our natural seaport, but as it is not within our territory, we must content ourselves with the fine harbors and seaports of the Lower Provinces.

Mr. Penny fears that "the officers of our armies will be appointed by the Imperial Government;" and that the military policy will be also dictated from the same source. We have never heard a doubt expressed as to the soundness of that principle. If we are to receive the protection of the Empire, we must of course accept and follow out her military policy.

The attacks on Hon. Geo. Brown are of a nature to elicit replies from the Honorable gentleman himself, and we shall therefore decline alluding to them.

The gist of Mr. Penny's "*conclusion*" is an appeal to the Imperial Government against the confirmation of a policy adopted by a large majority of the legislators of the Provinces. We have attempted to shew that, in many respects, his appeal is based on vague theories and surmises rather than on incontrovertible facts and arguments. We trust we have succeeded in convincing our readers that his effort cannot be productive of serious embarrassment to our London Delegates. It cannot be denied, however, that Mr. Penny's labor, if likely to be unrequited or ineffective, bears evidence of much thought and perseverance, that might have been directed to the pleading of a better cause than a violent denunciation of Colonial Union. That the Imperial Parliament will give Mr. Penny and his friends a fair hearing we can have no doubt; and should the question be reopened in this Province by any action of the House of Commons, we shall be prepared, as in the past, to advocate unceasingly the adoption of Confederation as the sole means left us to avoid the undesirable fate of annexation to the United States.