

thinking mind—from our local position, from the extent of our population, and our area of country, surrounded as we are, and circumscribed in narrow limits by other Colonies, are we in as favorable a position to derive all the legitimate advantages of those institutions which we would enjoy was there a larger field of operation. I think a little candid thought must bring the conviction home to every mind that, admitting the advantages and beauty of our form of Government, past experience has proved that in a Province of such limited population as ours, there is not room properly to develop or work out the system of Responsible Departmental Government. Then look at the anomalous position of other Colonies: Prince Edward Island, with a population of only 75,000, not as much as that of a second class city of the United States, or of Montreal, in Canada; with a revenue of \$65,000, she has all the paraphernalia and machinery of Government calculated and adapted for millions of people, and how can Responsible Government be carried on in that small Colony, or even in New Brunswick with two hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, only equal to the population of a third class city in the Old World? Here, some little paltry influences have frequently interfered to prevent the proper working of institutions eminently calculated to benefit the whole people, and we have sufficiently proved that it is impossible for a small representative branch to work out effectively those principles of self Government which have been conceded to us. Does it not often occur that a small number of men, in opposition, of no decided political views, may influence and thwart the desires of those in power, so as to defeat that object of good government, the general benefit of the whole people—a few individuals, where parties are so evenly balanced as they must be in small Legislatures, knowing that they are thus masters of the position, will and must have all they want, or their constituents want, or they will desert their party. We know such a state of things often exists, and are forced to the conclusion that our institutions, however desirable they are in principle, are not adapted for a small Colony. This brings us then, to a point from which we perceive the necessity for some change, and, from the documents before us, I am satisfied that the Government of the day believe a change necessary, and the paragraph in the Speech

just read by his honor the Chairman, is an acknowledgment that we are not now in a position to take advantage of passing opportunities to improve our position, and that the Government is forced to the conclusion that the Provinces cannot remain as they are.

How indeed, I may ask, can any one duly considering our position, and being influenced by any ambition for the future prosperity of this country, fail to arrive at the same conclusion. Situated as the Province is at present, its trade is hampered and confined by restrictions which forbid its profitable expansion. We are met not merely when we cross the borders into the United States, but at those lines which divide us from the sister Colonies, with hostile tariffs and Custom House Officers; and therefore a union which will break down the restrictions, is necessary in order to enable us to extend the sphere of our commercial operations; to give vigor and vitality to our trade; to develop our resources, and open up remunerative channels for the exercise of the industries of our people. But, your honors, there is a still more powerful reason for union, to be drawn from the papers which have already been read here. The British Government and the British people have come to the deliberate conclusion that the Colonies cannot remain as they are, and that Her Majesty's Government cannot consent to deal with these Colonies as it has hitherto. It is claimed that the Colonies cannot expect to have the assistance of the Mother country, on the same terms as they have in the past, but that they must be prepared to assume a portion of the expense and responsibility of their own defence; and enjoying all the privileges of freemen, must bear some of the burdens of freemen. Such is the tenor of public opinion in Britain. And the conclusion is obvious. It has frequently been commented upon here, the anomaly that we, having always been protected by Britain, should immediately on the first cause of alarm, call for assistance; and yet possessing as we do, all those advantages, and all that freedom which we do as British American Colonies, should expect England to protect us, drawing the means entirely from the Imperial revenue, while we refuse to aid at all in our own protection.

One of the greatest objections which have been urged against the Quebec Scheme, and