

ter to ravage and destroy, or having to expend large sums of money to send volunteers for the defence of that line, and to prevent raids into our own country. Besides being relieved from those burthens and fears, we found most happily an improved feeling towards us growing up in the American mind. (Hear, hear.) He thought that good feeling was increasing rapidly and that the relations which our neighbors felt towards us not so much on our own account as on that of Great Britain, but which was reflected upon us—was disappearing quickly. He thought the Americans were beginning to see that the Government and people of this country had discharged their duty towards them under circumstances of great difficulty, with a degree of honesty and straightforwardness which he believed they would see and appreciate fully in time to come. He believed they would see that no step our Government could have taken could be better suited to prevent the outrages and losses which had been inflicted upon them than those adopted; that with limited resources we did all we could to preserve peace upon our borders with our neighbors, and we were now able to find an acknowledgment on their part—in published despatches that we had done our duty in this matter. When that came to be generally recognised by the American people he believed that the temper arising from hostile acts complained of would be entirely reversed, and that we would be separated from any responsibility for these unfortunate acts, and that the Americans would recognise that they owed us gratitude and thanks for the way we had performed our duties throughout the late conflict; when a different course on our part would have entailed upon them serious difficulties and losses. Then in regard to the state of feeling in England, he thought it would not be denied that there had been a manifest change in the ideas of the people there, and that the class of politicians who looked upon colonies as a burden instead of an advantage to the mother country, was no longer leading public opinion, but that the time had again come when England regards her colonies as a great source of her greatness, and that her proper Policy was to consolidate and unite them more closely with herself in this position. She could be able to stand the brunt of any attack or any difficulties to which she might hereafter be subjected. (Cheers.) He believed further that England considered that the feeling of Canada was one she might fully depend upon should danger ever come. (Hear, hear.) With regard to confederation he need only refer to the despatches before the House which fully answered the boast of the hon. member for Chateaugay, that the check it had received in New Brunswick was fatal to the scheme.

Hon. Mr. HOLT—What is that answer.

Hon. Mr. GALT—Thought that the complete sanction given the scheme of uniting the colonies—not merely by the Imperial Government, but by the people of England—and the unmistakable way in which it had been mentioned in the address from the throne was an answer to the taunt of the enemies of confederation. He thought we did therefore stand in a widely different position from that occupied in March last, when one of the Lower Provinces pronounced against the scheme, and when we were quite uncertain as to the view England would take upon it as to her policy thereon.

Hon. Mr. HOLT—Yes, the policy of coercion.

Hon. Mr. GALT—The coercion was that kind of coercion that the Mother Country was entitled to exercise in exchange for the burden of defence of the colonies; it was the kind she could fairly exercise, and which was exerted in Canada in times past. (Hear, hear, from Holton.) If the Imperial Government was only to be burdened with the expense of defending these colonies, and if she was to be considered as coercing us in expressing the opinion that union would help us, and promote the work of defence, then he maintained that was a coercion she was fully entitled to exert; but the coercion the member for Chateaugay meant was not an appeal to the person's loyalty or interest of our fellow colonists, but an interference with their rights and privileges and stern compulsion.

Hon. Mr. HOLT—That is not the compulsion the Imperial Government wishes, but what you wish for.

Hon. Mr. GALT said—We did not desire to exercise such influence, but one that would make them go heart and hand with us and do everything for the common good. We desire to appeal to their interest and patriotism, believing that in so doing we are using the strongest kind of coercion. (Cheers.) He would have referred to this subject before, but for the interruption of the hon. Mr. Holton, member for Chateaugay.—He was going to remark that in addition to peace being restored, and the dread of war removed, there was a prospect that he believed was now stronger than ever of the Union of the Provinces being accomplished. (Cheers.) Instead of having a want of reliance on the Colonial system evidenced in England, he found the contrary was now the case. Besides all that, we in Canada itself had to thank Providence for having given us an abundant harvest. We might certainly look to this to restore general prosperity to the land. We might and must believe that the feeling of the people after having suffered from bad harvests and the fear of an interruption of our trade by war, being