

than this. There is something in it that captivates every man's mind and carries him almost away despite himself. It finds a response in every heart that feels the attachments of home. And it was wrong, it was cruel, on the part of the advocates to thus make an appeal to one of the noblest sentiments that find a home in the breast of man—that sentiment which bids us rise to defend the country in which God has placed us—to protect the homes we have secured by His blessing, and guard the altars we have erected to His worship,—without having such facts as would sustain the hopes excited by the assertions.

What is the Provincial Secretary's argument? That Confederation will give us more men and money to effect this great object. That we shall have 4,000,000 instead of 350,000 people to defend us. He does not, however, say that with an increase of men comes an increase of duty that they would have to perform. If it gave us the four millions entirely for the defence of this Province then his assertion would be sustained, but when every man that goes into Confederation brings with him the particular spot which he feels most anxious to defend, in case of invasion, then Confederation does not give us more men or money. Besides it places the control of our defences under a power that is situated 800 miles away from us. We are told by the hon. member from South Colchester that the temptation to invade this Province is greater than to invade any other—its value in consequence of its position and resources being greater. Admitting this to be the case, is it not unwise to give the control of the natural defences of this country—the men who are to defend their homes—to a power situated 800 miles away, and who will feel it more to their individual interest to call them away to protect Canada. It has been said that the fate of Canada is our own. That may be, but I regard the safety of Nova Scotia as more essential to the maintenance of our connection with the British Empire than is that of any other of the British colonies. I answer, Nova Scotia is the keystone to the whole—when she falls the whole follows. Great changes have taken place of late years in the character of the navies of the world. Steam has taken the place of wind as the motive power, rendering the ships more effective but more dependent upon their base of supply. We have here the power—the coal—which must be regularly supplied to the British fleet from our mines, in case of hostilities on this side of the Atlantic. And if this base of supply should fall into the hands of an enemy, then the whole navy of England would be powerless for the protection of these colonies, and must leave them to their fate. How essential then, is it, that local influences in Canada shall not have the power to call away our natural protectors to defend less important territory.

The Provincial Secretary says we are as unprotected and as helpless as the crawling

worm. I was amazed beyond measure to hear such an expression fall from an hon. gentleman occupying a position which gives to his declaration an official character. Had I occupied his position, rather than have stood at the table of this House, declaring that a *portion of the British Empire* "is as unprotected as the crawling worm," I'd have crawled down under the table. A crawling worm, are we? Well, what does he make of us under Confederation? I waited in anxiety expecting to see the "worm" swell and "develop its proportions," and eventually become a terrible dragon that would "gobble up" the American eagle, and still hunger for more. But alas! he only made the worm longer. He only lengthened it out until it became a tape-worm. He run it through circumlocution offices 800 miles away, until it became a worm of that "red tape" species, which so nearly proved the destruction of the British army on the outbreak of the Crimean War. Our main protection lies in the power of Britain, but the evident tendency of this Ottawa arrangement is separation from England. Our minds naturally follow the channels of authority up to the source, and when we have reached that source our ideas centre about it, and it becomes the embodiment of our nationality. We have hitherto looked to England, and have run up through the various channels to the Crown, and there our affections have centred; but this Confederation comes in and proposes a new order of things. It proposes that we shall have local governments, and that the source of our authority shall be at Ottawa. And when our thoughts and affections are turned toward that centre—provided the various and diverse interests of the several provinces will enable us to live in harmony—the effect will be that our affections will cling round that government, and shall be withdrawn from the Crown of England. Suppose that five or six American States imagined that separately they were too small, and accordingly proposed to form a special confederation under the general government, just as these gentlemen propose with us to form a government at Ottawa,—does not every man see that before ten years had expired, the feelings of the people would centre round the smaller confederation, and in antagonism to the larger? And so it would be, in the event of confederation, with the other British American Provinces. Therefore, I believe, instead of diminishing, it would only increase our danger, and render us an easy prey to an invader. Suppose that we should become an independent nationality, we would then indeed be helpless as the crawling worm, and the American eagle would soon make a "diet of worms" that would have a different interpretation in American history from the "Diet of Worms" in European history. Lord Palmerston, in referring to the subject, says:

"Sir, it is true that the only danger which