

by mere suppositions or conjectures as to any future advantages which there is no substantial reason to believe will be attained by the proposed federation; but rather endeavour to direct and apply the sure and abundant means now in our power for still further advancing the sources of the prosperity and welfare of our common country. As you, were, according to the Provincial Secretary's declaration, unwilling in your last Session, to enter into any such union as the one now proposed, it must in fairness be concluded that you are not persons of such *fickle* minds or *fluctuating judgments*, as in so *short* a time to change your former *convictions* on the subject. You will, doubtless, deeply ponder the solemn responsibility of your position as regards the *honor*, the *interests*, and the *peace* of the Province generally, and not incur the risk of being reproached for having assented to a measure so directly humiliating and so *perilous* as to the public prosperity and happiness. By now rejecting the proposed measure, time will be afforded until the next usual period for the choice of representatives, for all classes and persons to deliberate fully on the momentous subject. This privilege, it appears, is to be denied by our present Government by their immediately forcing it forward, without that appeal to the population generally, which, according to that free constitutional system of government under which we live, it is so obvious ought to be made on a subject of such a *universal* and politically *important* character.

In coming to a conclusion, I hope I am warranted in saying that I have fulfilled my expressed desire and intention of treating the gentlemen who are advocating this Confederation with all due *personal respect*; but as to their reasons and arguments, I acknowledge I have dealt with them in that plain and strict manner, which the *vast importance* of the numerous interests involved, and the welfare of the millions of persons concerned, so justly required. If offence is taken at what I have said, regarding the scheme, having sprung from dreams and visions, I may justify myself by answering that the gentlemen themselves have furnished me with the language, for one of them has expressly said, that this Confederation has been the "dream of his life," and the orations of the others had certainly more reference to *visions* of the future than to