

maintaining his threatening attitude with the remainder, not a man would be sent here from Canada. Of course we would all do our best to help one another, should any difficulty arise, but it remains to be explained how a Federal Union is to increase our *means of doing so*, though it seems quite clear that the disposal of our forces would be taken out of our hands. Great extent of territory is a cause of weakness in a military point of view, and if we, with our small population, are to contribute men for the defence of the country all the way from here to Vancouver's Island, the sooner we are plainly told so, the better. This first reason, therefore, for a Federation, can have but little weight with Nova Scotians. A defensive alliance would be quite as efficacious, more consonant with the feelings of the local Militia, and, perhaps, a little cheaper than the book-keeping-by-double-entry system, of a Legislature here and another one in Ottawa.

The *second* argument used to show the necessity of an immediate federation, is, that a rapid growth of Commerce would be the sure result. The most specious arguments have been used on this point, and an edifice of rapidly attained commercial greatness has been built on a foundation of sand. Had Nova Scotia been represented at the Conference by any one connected with the trade and commerce of the country, some answer might have been made to the statement that we, instead of manufacturing for 400,000 people would become manufacturers for 4,000,000! What do we manufacture that the Canadians would take from us? With our extensive sea coast, and a corresponding