

George's Island and a half dozen other places I could name. Extend your wanderings to the north end of this city, and see those costly structures the Wellington Barracks; visit the Ordnance and Dockyards; and then you will have only a very faint idea of the amount of treasure Great Britain has lavished upon us. How much does the army, supported here for our protection, spend among us? In a few short weeks the harbor of Halifax will be alive with the "wooden walls" of England. Her brave tars will be on the spot to protect our interests, and leave their last dollar with our people. Should these things be forgotten or winked out of sight at the present time?

But, sir, it is not alone in this way Great Britain has shown us favor. She has not only done everything for our protection and security, but she has given us the entire control of our local affairs—Responsible Government—and every liberty we enjoy having been got for the asking. Therefore, sir, as a Nova Scotian, I am ready to yield that deference to the wishes of the Imperial Government they have a right to expect. Their past treatment of this Province is a guarantee that they desire to improve our condition by union. I have no hesitation in saying that of all the dependencies of the Crown, Nova Scotia should be one of the most disposed to yield a deferential ear to Imperial counsels.

It may be said, sir, that my practice is inconsistent with my professions—that for the last eighteen months I have been opposing the policy of the British Government. Sir, I deny the imputation. I have never opposed that policy; on the contrary, I have advocated it. I consider there are only two classes in the Provinces who are in antagonism to the Imperial policy: those who are opposed to all union, and those, unwittingly so, yet equally hostile to that policy, who would force a scheme of union on the Maritime Provinces, which its opponents believe to be unjust, and its supporters know to be obnoxious to the

great body of the people. Against that scheme public opinion has unmistakably pronounced, and if forced upon us, the result will be the opposite to that desired. The British Government have no especial partiality for the Quebec scheme—they desire an equitable union of British America; and instead of opposing I have always advocated such a union.

There are one or two other matters to which I shall allude before turning my attention to the question I intend to ask. A few days ago this House went through all the solemn forms of a conference with the other branch of the Legislature on a subject the importance of which is admitted by every one—I allude to the protection of our fisheries, in consequence of the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty. What was the result of the deliberations of the joint committee of both Houses on that occasion? What means did they suggest for that great service? Their report has been placed on our table, and what does it advise? An humble petition to the Queen's Government praying for assistance. In our necessities we rush to the Colonial Office for aid and protection, and yet there are those among us who deny any reciprocal duty on our part, any obligation even to listen respectfully to the wishes of the British Government. We know that, although we may buy a blockade runner and vote a few thousand dollars for the service, our fisheries can have no adequate protection if England refuses us her aid. Now, I ask is it reasonable to expect a favorable answer to our petition, if we refuse to comply at such an important period of our history, with the request of Her Majesty's Government?

Mr. Speaker, there is another subject to which I must refer, because its bearing on the question of Colonial Union is too palpable to escape the commonest observation. Every one will admit that the clouds pending above our political horizon at the present time may justly excite the most