

then it is only right and proper that the former be pushed out of sight, and give place to their successors. But while giving to Mr. Howe's arguments all the respect and consideration due to his great ability, we cannot be expected to shut our eyes and ears to the opinions of men who have had a wider and longer experience than he has had, and are possessed of a mind as cultivated, and of a stronger and more evenly balanced intellect. Every British statesman, deserving the name, is a warm supporter of the Union of these British American Provinces, from a conviction which they have again and again expressed, that it would add to their strength, their security, and prosperity. Such was the opinion of Lord Durham and of Lord Palmerston. Such is the opinion of Earl Russel, of Lord Derby, and of Mr. Gladstone, and indeed of every public man in England whose attention has been at all given to Colonial affairs. If wisdom and integrity are entitled to any weight, surely the opinions of these men should not be lightly thrown aside.

But it may be said that they are far removed from the scene, and are ignorant of the practical working of Colonial institutions. This does not affect the principle; but granting its force for the moment, how is it that at least four-fifths of the public men in the Colonies are of the same way of thinking. How is it that men of the highest station and whose advice is treasured on every other topic, should also be of opinion that a Union of these Colonies will be a public benefit? Such men as the Archbishop of Halifax, the Bishop of Nova Scotia, the Bishop of Arichat, and the great bulk of the clergy of all denominations, can have no political aspirations, no personal objects to subserve, no inducement to injure their people by ruining their country. Yet these men are in favor of Union; and surely it is no undue stretch of argument to take for granted that they are in favor of it, because they believe in their hearts that it will conduce to the material prosperity of their flocks. Any other supposition would be, not only inconsistent with reason, but an utter absurdity.

Whatever, therefore, any of us may think of those who are opposed to Union, when we look at those who sustain it, we must be constrained to extend to it at least a fair and patient examination, to judge it by its merits, by the facts and arguments by which it is surrounded, by the light of wisdom and