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by promptly securing to the Province all the advantages arising from its proximity to Europe—from its containing within its bosom the high road, over which, in all time to come, the Anglo-Saxon race must pass in their social and commercial intercourse with each other.

There are other views of this question, my Lord, which ought to have their weight with the Government and people of England. The position of the North American Provinces is peculiar, and the temptations and dangers which surround them, trust me, my Lord, require, on the part of the Imperial Government, a policy at once conciliatory and energetic.

The concessions already made, and the principles acknowledged by Her Majesty's Government, leave us nothing to desire, and Imperial statesmen little to do, in regard to the internal administration of our affairs. But something more than this is required by the high-spirited race who inhabit British America. Placed between two mighty nations, we sometimes feel that we belong, in fact, to neither. Twenty millions of people live beside us, from whose markets our staple productions are excluded, or in which they are burdened with high duties, because we are British subjects. For the same reason, the higher paths of ambition, on every hand inviting the ardent spirits of the Union, are closed to us. From equal participation in common rights, from fair competition with them in the more elevated duties of Government and the distribution of its prizes, our British brethren, on the other side, as carefully exclude us. The President of the United States is the son of a schoolmaster. There are more than 1000 schoolmasters teaching the rising youth of Nova Scotia, with the depressing conviction upon their minds, that no very elevated walks of ambition are open either to their pupils or their children.

Protection to any species of industry in Nova Scotia we utterly repudiate; but your Lordship is well aware that many branches of industry, many delicate and many coarse manufactures, require an extended demand before they can be sustained in any country. This extended demand the citizens of the great Republic enjoy; and it has done more for them than even their high tariffs or their peculiar institutions. The wooden nutmeg of Connecticut may flavour, untaxed, the rice of Carolina. Sea-borne in a vessel which traverses two mighty oceans, the coarse cloths of Massachusetts enter the Port of St. Francisco without fear of a custom-house or payment of duty. The staple exports of Nova Scotia cannot cross the Bay of Fundy without paying 30 per cent.; and every species of Colonial manufacture is excluded from Great Britain by the comparatively low price of labour here, and from the wide range of the Republic by prohibitory duties.

The patience with which this state of things has been borne; the industry and enterprise which Nova Scotia has exhibited, in facing these difficulties, entitle her to some consideration. But a single century has passed away since the first permanent occupation of her soil by a British race. During all that time she has preserved her loyalty untarnished, and the property created upon her soil, or which floats under her flag upon the sea, is estimated at the value of £15,000,000. She provides for her own civil Government,—guards her criminals,—lights her coast,—maintains her poor,—and educates her people, from her own resources. Her surface is everywhere intersected with free roads, inferior to none in America; and her hardy shoremen not only wrestle with the Republicans for the fisheries and commerce of the surrounding seas, but enter into successful competition with them in the carrying trade of the world. Such a country, your Lordship will readily pardon me for suggesting even to my gracious Sovereign's confidential advisers, is worth a thought. Not to wound the feelings of its inhabitants, or even seem to disre-

gard their interests, may be worth the small sacrifice she now requires.

Nova Scotia has a claim upon the British Government and Parliament, which no other colony has. The mineral treasures in her bosom are supposed to be as inexhaustible as the fisheries upon her coast or the riches of her soil. Nearly the whole have been bartered away to a single company, for no adequate provincial or national object. A monopoly has thus been created, which wounds the pride, while it cramps the industry of the people. If Nova Scotia were a State of the American Union, this monopoly would not last an hour. If she now asked to have this lease cancelled or bought up, that her industry might be free, she would seek nothing unreasonable. The emancipation of our soil is perhaps as much an obligation resting upon the people of England, as was the emancipation of the slaves. No Government dare create such a monopoly in England or in Scotland; and bear with me, my Lord, when I assure your Lordship that our feelings are as keen, our pride as sensitive, as those of Englishmen or Scotchmen. Break up this monopoly, and capital would flow into our mines, and the mines would furnish not only employment for railroads, but give an impetus to our coasting and foreign trade.

Nova Scotians have seen £20,000,000 not lent, but given, to their fellow-colonists in the West Indies. They admired the spirit which overlooked pecuniary considerations in view of great principles of national honour and humanity. But by that very act they lost, for a time, more than would make this railroad. Their commerce with the West Indies was seriously deranged by the change, and the consumption of fish, their great staple, largely diminished.

If money is no object when the national honour is at stake in the West Indies, why should it be in British America? If the emancipation of 800,000 Blacks is a moral obligation, to be redeemed at the cost of £20,000,000, surely a territory, which now contains double the number of Whites, attached British subjects, and which will ultimately contain ten times that number, is worth risking a million or two to preserve.

The national bounties of France and America, my Lord, also place Nova Scotia in a false and unfavourable position. These bounties are not aimed at our industry, but at British naval supremacy. Yet they subject us to an unfair competition upon the sea, as galling as is the mineral and metallic monopoly upon the land.

For every quintal of fish a Frenchman catches, his Government pays him 10 francs, or 8s. 4d. sterling, and every man and boy employed receives 50 francs for each voyage besides. For every ton of shipping an American employs in the fishery, his Government pays him 20s. per ton. Nova Scotia juts into the seas which the French and American fishermen, thus stimulated, occupy. If she were a French province, or an American State, not only would she participate in those bounties, but she would fit out and own, in addition to her present fleet, at least 1000 fishing craft, which now come from foreign ports into the waters by which she is surrounded, and subject her people to a species of competition in which the advantages are all on one side.

The manner in which Nova Scotia has extended her fisheries in the face of this competition; the hardy race she has reared upon her sea-coast; the value of craft employed and of export furnished, speak volumes for the enterprise and industry of her people. Yet every Nova Scotia fisherman toils with this conviction daily impressed upon his mind: "If I were a Frenchman, my profits would be secure. I would be in a position equal to that of an American; far superior to that of a colonist. If I was an American I would have a bounty sufficient to cover the risk of my outfit, and besides, have a boundless free market for the sale of my fish, extending from Maine to California,

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