

change their allegiance, or consent to the surrender of the Dominion to any foreign power by annexation, political union or otherwise."

The boldness of this annexation experiment in Oxford, though it came to nothing, has, in connection with some other circumstances, called my attention to an apparent drift in some sections of our people in favor of political union with the United States. There are evidently more who favor such union than there had been before the complete and manifest collapse of the N. P. as a remedy for financial troubles. The number is no doubt few in the aggregate as compared with the whole population of the Dominion; but, since the first attack outside of Essex was made in my own constituency, I have thought it my duty to take this early opportunity of stating at length some of the reasons for remaining faithful to what has long been the recognised policy of Canadian Liberals. I wish also to correct an inference which has been drawn from a published letter of mine to Dr. McKay, my colleague in the representation of Oxford in the Legislative Assembly, written at his request the day before the Woodstock meeting, that I am now against unrestricted reciprocity with the United States in the products of the two countries. This is not so. Loyalist as I am, I am willing to run the risk of a fair measure of unrestricted reciprocity. Some risks have to be run in all great measures, and these risks are sometimes in one direction and sometimes in another.

ATTACHMENT TO BRITISH CONNECTION.

The attachment of Canadians to British connection has stood many tests during a hundred years and more, and, I hope and think, will bear this test also. It was the attachment of the people of Canada to British connection that prevented them from joining the other colonies in the war of the Revolution. The same attachment brought from those colonies to Canada, when the war closed, the U. E. Loyalists, men who sacrificed all, or nearly all, their acquired means, and submitted to the unaccustomed hardships and privation of a pioneer life in the woods of Canada, in order that they and their families and descendants might re-