

ality. Those journals especially noted for their violent antipathy towards everything British do not conceal their hostility to this measure, and the grounds of that hostility. We find that those among us who oppose union are applauded as the friends of annexation, while those who advocate it receive very different treatment. Let me treat the House to an extract from a journal marked for the villainess and virulence of its abuse of Great Britain and these colonies—the *N. Y. Herald*—as indicative of the hopes entertained in that quarter as the inevitable result of a refusal on our part to unite and concentrate our interests. The *Herald* of the 10th of March last, referring to the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty, says:—

“Meantime the provincials, who have had a taste of the blessings of free trade with the ‘Yankees’ under this expiring Reciprocity Treaty, are called upon to consider the question of their ‘manifest destiny’ in the proposition from Queen Victoria for a North American Confederation under the vice-royalty of a member of her family. This movement contemplates a consolidation which has already been declined by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but it is not thus to be abandoned. AN AGITATION WILL BE APT TO FOLLOW WHICH IN DUE TIME WILL GRAVITATE TO THE EASY, NATURAL AND ADVANTAGEOUS SOLUTION OF ANNEXATION TO THE UNITED STATES.”

Sir, there is something in this language that should arrest the attention of every man not blinded by party spirit or other unworthy feelings. What is the meaning of this “agitation” with which we are threatened? Is the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty merely the initiation of a systematic design to undermine our allegiance and annex us? Have the Government of the United States their agents in this country for this purpose, as insinuated by the *Herald*? If they have, it will not long remain a secret, for the hour of action is at hand, when we all must be judged by the sympathies we avow, and the company we keep. I am aware that no man would dare openly advocate annexation, but if there be any among us who desire it, they will

take the more safe and insidious means of attaining their end by exciting disaffection on any pretext that will offer itself. The language of the *Herald* affords reasonable grounds for watchfulness, and it is only right that the country should be on its guard.

Now, sir, there is another consideration that has its just weight with me. The Imperial Government has spoken on this subject in terms not to be mistaken, and firmly and persistently urges on the people of British America the necessity for union. I know there are persons who talk very flippantly of the interference of Colonial Secretaries, or the British Government, in our affairs. For my part, sir, while I would as readily as anyone resist improper interference from any quarter in the public affairs of this Province, I would be sorry to deny the right of the Queen's Government to use its just influence and authority in all matters of Imperial concern. Much less would I dream of anything so absurd as to dispute their right to deal with any measure affecting the integrity of the Empire. On all questions of this character, I for one am ready to yield the most respectful deference to this high authority. The desire of Her Majesty's Government for a union of the colonies has received the most emphatic expression that could be given to it—it has been declared in three consecutive Speeches from the Throne. Now, I ask this House, is there a colony under the Crown that has greater reason to show deference to the just wishes of the Imperial Government than the Province of Nova Scotia? Sir, do I require to point to the evidences of Imperial solicitude for our safety and welfare that are before everybody's eyes? Walk out some fine morning and view the fortifications of this city, and get, as you can only get, an imperfect estimate of the immense treasure Great Britain has spent for the protection of this people. Visit that citadel, under whose shadow even now our slumbers are undisturbed; visit Point Pleasant,