

a quarter of a million of its sons, the flower and hope of their country, and thousands of them the only staff and stay of tottering age, and nerveless infirmity? Who would transfer the basis of his highest temporal hopes from the serene abode of dignified and inviolable freedom, to the verge of a volcano, whose crater may be fringed with verdure, but whose bowels inclose elements of terrific energy that, at any moment, may break forth and cover the land with their desolating lava?

Fellow subjects: no selfish or unworthy motive has prompted this appeal to your reason and conscience as men, and to your patriotic and loyal impulses as Britons. I disdain that science of the bar-room and the streets—*party politics*. But I can not—nor do I desire to divest myself of intense solicitude for the honor and interests of this colony, when I contemplate the hostile attitude which it somewhat preposterously presents to a magnificent scheme, intended to embrace in one common brotherhood, for the defence of their common heritage, the whole of British North America—a political compact from which, I firmly believe, Prince Edward Island has everything to hope and nothing to fear.

Let me earnestly entreat the yeomanry, who constitute the strength and sinew of the population, to scrutinize the grounds of their opposition to a measure urgently called for by the exigencies of the present crisis. Carefully sift and analyze every intelligent and relevant objection to it which