

carrying out, and the maintenance and the welfare of the Union. All that can be justly required on the part of Nova Scotia, is that the opinions of her representatives, expressed in this Legislature here, shall carry with them their duly proportionate weight, and I have only to regret that gentlemen opposite should have taken their stand upon a platform so ultramontane as to forbid approach by any well wisher of the Union. If there is to be any satisfactory cooperation upon the subjects in which they are most deeply interested, they must endeavour to modify the extremeness of their views—not necessarily to compel them to a coincidence with ours, but at least to present them, where alone argument or comparison can be possible, in the same plane. In the attitude they have taken the first advances towards mutual political amity must come from them, and these advances will be, I shall venture to assert for all on our side, frankly and fairly responded to. I hold, Sir, in my hands a little volume, a pamphlet which has been very recently issued, but which I shall take the liberty of recommending to every member of this House, as well worthy of his attentive perusal. It is entitled "Intercolonial Trade—Our Only Safeguard against Disunion." Its author is Mr. Haliburton, whose happy manner of treating his important subject displays the great ability hereditary in his name. Mr. Haliburton is not, I believe, actively mixed up with politics, and undoubtedly handles his topic in no merely party style. From this reason alone the conclusions from his disinterested, impartial and unimpassioned point of view, adopted and published in the interests of the permanent prosperity of the country, must be regarded of greater weight, and of greater soundness, than those of the framers of this address, which can work but a temporary mischief. And this pamphlet shows conclusively, beyond doubt or cavil, that ought indeed to be sufficiently obvious to us all—that the Union is not to be consolidated by any temporary conciliating concessions to evanescent popular prejudice—not by any momentary humouring, in this direction or in that, of some particular local or sectional phase of public opinion—but by our constant, earnest and unremitting care of the commercial welfare and progress of the Province. And besides this attention and practical consideration we need, above everything else, the healing influence of time. I have, Sir, great reliance on the mellowing effects of time. It is not only the lime, and the sand, and the hair, [Mr. McGee (Montreal West).]

and the mortar, but the time which has been taken to temper it. And if time be so necessary an element in so rudimentary a process as the mixing of mortar, of how much greater importance must it be in the work of consolidating the Confederation of these Provinces. Time, Sir, will heal all existing irritations; time will mellow and refine all points of contrast that seem so harsh to-day; time will come to the aid of the pervading principles of impartial justice, which happily permeates the whole land. By and by Time will show us the Constitution of this Dominion as much cherished in the hearts of the people of all its Provinces, not excepting Nova Scotia, as is the British Constitution itself. And I do not despair, with the assistance of Time, of seeing by and by the honourable member for Lunenburg himself converted into the heartiest supporter of Union within these walls, willing and anxious to perpetuate the system which he will find to work so advantageously for his own Province, and adopting the position of the honourable member for Guysboro' as that of the true and patriotic statesman. I will not, Sir, believe that such anticipations are ill founded, for I can find their precedent even in the history of Nova Scotia herself. When Cape Breton was annexed to Nova Scotia—annexed not by any Act of Parliament, but simply by an order of the King in Council, the people were so strongly opposed to the Union that they almost threatened rebellion. Well, Sir, this took place so lately as 1820, and already time has brought with it its certain healing operation, and there is no question raised now of the advantages which the Union has conferred. There is no such question, because there has been no consequent injustice. The incorporated people have found that there is no desire to rob them of their liberties, and no disposition to treat them with unfairness. They see, what time shows them, that the Union was affected for their advantage, as well as that of their neighbours, and they are satisfied, because they find it working for both. And, Sir, I have every confidence that we will similarly wear out Nova Scotian hostility by the unflinching exercise and exhibition of a high-minded spirit of fair play. It has been said that the interests of Canada are diametrically opposed to the interests of Nova Scotia, but I ask which of the parties to the partnership has most interests in its successful conduct, or has most to fear from the failure which the