Hon. Col. Secretary.—Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that I am in order. I did not deem it necessary formally to declare to this House that the resolutions just submitted do not express the views of the Government. It is well known, Sir, not only in this House, but from one end of the Island to the other, that the members of the Government, with two exceptions, are hostile to the proposed Confederation. The Report of the resolutions of the Quebec Conference does not come before this House as a Government measure. Confederation is an open question, and in this discussion I recognize but two parties—the one composed of the four or five members who are favorable to Confederation, and the other consisting of the six and twenty members who I believe to be opposed to Confederation. Mr. Speaker, I enter upon the discussion of the questions involved in the Report of the Quebec Conference, deeply sensible of their magnitude and importance, and of my utter incompetency to do them justice; but, Sir, in this House the number of those who advocate Confederation, which this Report contemplates, is so very small—consisting of some four or five only—that we cannot afford that even one should remain silent. In taking the lead in the discussion of this subject, I am encouraged by the consciousness that the gentlemen who will follow me, in the support of these resolutions, are abler than I am to do justice to the great question to which they relate. It is generally known, Sir, that the Quebec Conference had its origin in the resolutions which, last Session, were passed by the Legislatures of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, authorizing a convention of Delegates for the purpose of conferring upon the subject of a Legislative Union of these Provinces. When the resolution, assenting to the Convention, of which I have spoken, was before this House last Session, I declared myself in favor of the Legislative Union which it contemplated, and at the same time expressed regret that the Legislatures of the neighboring Provinces had not proposed the larger scheme of Union, which should include all the British possessions in North America. Of the thirty members of which this House is composed, but two declared themselves in favor of a Legislative Union of these three Maritime Provinces, although several hon. members expressed themselves as not averse to a Federal Union of all the Provinces. In due time Delegates from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island assembled in Conference in this Building. The Government of Canada had sent to this Island a deputation composed of the leading statesmen of that Province. These gentlemen were admitted to the Conference shortly after its proceedings were opened, and at their instance the Conference postponed the further discussion of the question of the proposed Legislative Union, in order to allow the Canadian Government to submit a scheme for a general Confederation of the Provinces of British North America. After a tour through the Lower Provinces the Canadians returned to Quebec. With the sanction of the Crown, and at the request of His Lordship the Governor General, the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, sent Delegates to Quebec, for the purpose of discussing with the Government of Canada, the practicability of a Federal Union of the Provinces of British North America under the Crown of Great Britain. I have heard a great deal said against the Government of this Island for acceding to the request of the Governor General. I need not inform this House that the request of the Governor General, that Delegates should be sent to represent this Island at the proposed Conference was one which the Government would not have been justified in refusing. Exception has also been taken to the constitution of the delegation. It was understood by the members of the respective Governments represented at Charlottetown, that the gentlemen who had composed that Conference should be members of the Conference to be held at Quebec. The Government of this Island considered it very desirable that at the Quebec Conference all political parties should be fairly and fully represented. I admit, Mr. Speaker, that at the time of the appointment of Delegates to proceed to Quebec, I was under the belief that should the Delegates appointed unanimously agree to recommend to the Legislature and people of this Island the adoption of the resolutions of the Conference, such resolutions, being so recommended, would be accepted alike by the Legislature and the people. At the Charlottetown Conference this Island was represented by five Delegates. The party in opposition to the Government, in each branch of the Legislature, was represented by one member—by the Hon. Mr. Coles of the Assembly, and the Hon. A. A. McDonald of the Legislative Council. This delegation, it was considered, did not sufficiently represent the Opposition in this House; therefore, the Hon Edward Whelan, whose abilities and long Parliamentary experience render him eminently a representative man of his party, was requested to join the Delegation to Quebec. The present Solicitor General was also requested to give us the aid of his knowledge and experience. Prince Edward Island, it will be seen, was fully represented at the Quebec Conference; and although the seven gentlemen who composed the Delegation declared in Canada, the Report of the Conference such as they could recommend for the adoption of the Legislature and people of this Island, I regret to say, Sir, that very few, either in the Legislature or among the people, are at present disposed to adopt the resolutions of the Conference. The Conference assembled at Quebec, and the important subject, for the consideration of which the leading public men of five Provinces and Colonies had met together, was entered upon, in a spirit of patriotism, by gentlemen deeply impressed with the magnitude, and with the difficulties of the task which lay before them—the devising a Constitution which should unite, under one general government, the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, in each of which is maintained a distinct and different tariff—a different currency—in short an entirely different government—and which contained in the aggregate a population approaching four millions. The Report now under consideration is the result of their labors. In all their deliberations, the Delegates kept in mind that it was absolutely necessary that mutual concessions should be made. The many difficulties with which they had to contend, could only have been surmounted by mutual deference and concession. The resolutions passed by the Conference were not, in any particular, in accordance with the views of the Representatives of each Province and Colony. Taken together, they embodied a constitution which, as I considered, received the unanimous support of the members of the Conference. Gentlemen with whom I was associated in the Delegation representing this Island, have, I am aware, since their return to the Island, denounced that which in Canada they approved. It is not my intention, Mr. Speaker, on the present occasion to call in question the right of these gentlemen to change their views; nor shall I charge them with inconsistency. I do not feel myself at liberty to allude to the course pursued by hon gentlemen at the Conference, nor to quote from their speeches delivered there. There is one very strong reason why the expressions of members, while at the Conference, should not be quoted. It is this. It was understood that the deliberations should be considered private. There is no record to which to appeal in the event of the correctness of statements attributed to hon members being called in question. I shall endeavor to deal with the resolutions as reported from the Conference, and not with the suggestions or amendments of any hon member made at the Conference previously to the passing of those resolutions. It has been objected that the deliberations of the Conference were conducted with closed doors. The reasons for such an arrangement are obvious. The admission of the public would, to some extent, have prevented that free and full discussion which was so desirable, while the daily publication of the expressions of members would have prevented unanimous conclusions. It has been urged against the Confederation of the Colonies, proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference, that the scheme had its origin in the local difficulties of the Canadians. It is true that the sectional difficulties of Canada during the last year occasioned a "dead lock." I cannot, however, discover any force in this objection. This crisis in the political affairs of Canada led the statesmen of that Province to consider their position, with a view to remedy evils which were such as to render impracticable the further government of that Province under the existing constitution. I need not enumerate the many reasons which induced those statesmen to propose a Confederation of all the Provinces. They realized, among other things, the position in which these Provinces stand in relation to the neighboring Republic, which, within the short space of four years, from being a purely commercial and agricultural people, had become one of the greatest military and naval powers in existence. They had also received an intimation from the Imperial Government to the effect that the people of the Colonies would be required to contribute largely to the cost of fortifications, and other means of defence, as a condition of England's undertaking to co-operate in their defence. The Colonies have heretofore left it to England to provide and maintain fleets and armies for the security of their country at the cost of the tax-payers of Great Britain; and, sir, I can see nothing unreasonable in the people of the Colonies being, at this day, called upon to contribute of their ability to the cost of their defence. As subjects of the Crown of Great Britain, we have a right to demand the protection of the Mother Country; but if we have this right, we are most certainly under the obligation to contribute of our ability to the maintenance of those fleets and armies which are necessary for the defence of the Empire of which we form a part. If, sir, the existence upon our borders of a vast military and naval power, rendering it prudent for the Colonies to prepare means for their defence, together with other reasons, can be adduced to prove that Confederation is essential to the maintenance of our institutions, and that it will promote our common prosperity, it matters not what were the peculiar circumstances in which the project of Confederation had its origin; whether it arose out of the political dissensions between Upper and Lower Canada, or resulted from less important causes. The first of the Resolutions just submitted reads as follows:—

1. *Resolved*, That the best interests, and present and future prosperity of British North America, would be promoted by a Federal Union, under the Crown of Great Britain, provided such Union could be effected on principles just to the several Provinces and Colonies.

I would willingly have advocated a Legislative Union of all these Provinces, but such a Union was believed to be unattainable. The resolution just read is identical with the resolution of the Quebec Conference, and will, I believe, be supported by a large majority of this House. The leader of the Opposition—the Hon. Mr. Coles—will certainly support me, so far as this resolution is concerned, seeing that the sentiment which it expresses was received by the Conference with acclamation. Union is strength, and strength in British America is certainly desirable. The second and third Resolutions are as follow:—

2. *Resolved*, That the existence of immense Military and Naval forces in the neighboring Republic renders it specially incumbent on the people of British North America to take the most efficient precautionary measures by which their independence against foreign aggression may be secured.

3. *Resolved*, That a Union, such as in times of extraordinary danger would place the Militia, the Revenue and the resources of the several Provinces, at the disposal of a General Parliament, is necessary in order to maintain the independence of British North America against foreign aggression, and to perpetuate our connection with the Mother Country.

To these, I apprehend, there will be no objection on the part of any hon. member. To defend our hearths and homes is, I trust, regarded by all as a sacred duty. It will, I assume, be generally admitted that the people of the British North American Colonies cannot defend themselves against the power of the Great Republic upon our borders, should that warlike nation resolve to "gobble us up." Our safety, therefore, can only be secured by the powerful protection of the Mother Country; and in the event of a war with the United States of America, the resources of Britain, great as they are, would be taxed to the utmost, in order to save the Colonies from subjugation. England well knows this, and we may depend upon it that her statesmen are too wise, too mindful of national honor, to send out a few regiments, or a small fleet to suffer defeat. If we neglect to discharge our duty in providing for our safety, we may reasonably expect that England will withdraw her military and naval forces, and leave us to our fate. But on the other hand, if we show ourselves anxious to maintain our connection with England, and do that which is reasonably required of us, England will defend us to the utmost. It is to my mind very evident that we must choose between consolidation of the different Provinces and Colonies, and absorption into the American Republic. Consolidation—the placing the revenues and the men of the several Provinces under the control of a central power would, in the event of a war, be absolutely necessary in order to the efficient organization of our colonial resources. In Britain, as well as in the Colonies, the opinion is widely entertained that our absorption into the Great Republic is inevitable. In the event of war between England and the United States of America, the battle-ground would be the British Provinces. It has therefore been contended by some that in order to avert so great a calamity, the connection between the Provinces and the Mother Country should be severed by mutual consent, and that we should become an independent nation. Others, Sir, consider that it would be more to our interest to retain our connection with England, and endure, if necessary, the horrors of war—that we should remain a portion of the great Empire of Britain, continue to live under the glorious old flag, and our Monarchical Institutions. The latter is the prevailing opinion. There is an influential party in England who, I believe, desire to get rid of these Colonies on the ground that they are an expense to the Empire; and because Colonists do not accommodate their Customs Tariff to suit the manufacturers of Sheffield and Manchester. I have yet to learn, Sir, that the people of this Island have not a right to enjoy all the privileges of Englishmen to an equal extent with either Mr. Cobden, Mr Bright, or Professor Goldwin Smith. Our right to these privileges, I consider, exists in virtue of our allegiance, and cannot be affected by our neglect to patronize or encourage the manufacturers of Sheffield or of Manchester. I have said, Sir, that as British subjects we have our rights; but let it not be forgotten, Sir, that we have our obligations; and that chief among these obligations is that which demands that we shall contribute our full share to the cost of defending the Empire. With the strength of England available for our defence, I fear not the subjugation of the Provinces, so long as the inhabitants remain loyal. The inevitable result of a war with the United States of America would be the occupation of large portions of our territory by hostile soldiery; but the strongholds open to the sea would be held even against the gigantic power of the United States. If we once separate from Great Britain, we need not depend upon England's assistance should we ever be so unfortunate as to become embroiled with our neighbours. The manner in which the English Government recently acted towards Denmark is calculated to teach us a valuable lesson. Under a general organization the four millions of inhabitants in the Provinces could supply a formidable military force. Without such organization—which would be the result of Confederation—the Provinces separately can do little or nothing. We have recently had a discussion in this House on the subject of our Militia. To train the Militia of this Island would require an annual outlay nearly equal to our entire Revenue; and were our Militia to be rendered efficient, of what service would they be unless they were available for the defence of the frontiers of Canada or New Brunswick? That our sons would be required to shoulder arms and march to the frontiers of Canada has been urged as an argument against Confederation. This Island is of no importance in a military point of view. It will never be a battle-field. A gunboat or a privateer might enter into any one of our numerous harbors, do a great deal of mischief, and depart before our defenders could be mustered. Unless under a general organization our Militia will necessarily be useless. I am not aware, sir, that I am the most efficient officer in the service, although I have held a commission for a quarter of a century, and have never seen the company to which I am supposed to be attached. Although opposed to spending money uselessly upon our Militia, I am in favor of training every man in the Provinces capable of bearing arms, provided such training be conducted under a general organization, believing that readiness on our part for defence would be our best protection against invasion. The fourth resolution reads thus:

4. *Resolved*, That a Federal Union of British North America based upon the Resolutions adopted at the Conference of Delegates from the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, held at the City of Quebec, 10th October, 1864, as the basis of a proposed Confederation of those Provinces and Colonies, would, among other advantages, promote the developement of the trade and manufacturing capabilities of these Provinces and Colonies, and advance the general prosperity, by inducing the substitution of a Customs Tariff uniform and common to the Confederation, in lieu of the various tariffs now in force in the several Provinces and Colonies.

The most effectual means of advancing our prosperity would be found in a Union, such as is proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference. A great deal has been said and written on the subject of the proposed Confederation by our Island Statesmen, who have told the people of the disastrous effects the Union would exert upon our trade and manufactures. If the gentlemen to whom I allude have not instructed, they have, at least, amused the more intelligent of their hearers and readers. It is true, Sir, that our trade is chiefly in agricultural produce, that our manufactures are few, and that there are physical disabilities which will prevent us from becoming a great manufacturing country. For five months in the year we are cut off from communication with our neighbors; yet, Sir, our manufactures are capable of expansion, and under Union they would expand. At present the manufacturers of Leather and of Cloth are obliged to limit their operations. If they manufacture more than they can sell in this little Island, they have to export, subject to a heavy duty. Yet even in the face of this duty we now export Island Manufactured Leather to New Brunswick. But, Sir, Union would develope the enormous manufacturing capabilities of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Great Prince Edward Island never can become—her geographical position, her limited area, her small population, and the absence of all mineral deposits, preclude us from becoming a great country; but, Sir, the Provinces with which it is proposed that we should unite, contain every element of greatness; there is no reason, then, why they should not become a great and prosperous country, or why we should not share their greatness. It is argued that the Canadian Tariff would follow Union, and that the people of Prince Edward Island would, under its operation, be necessitated to pay an increased amount of duties. I do not believe such would be the case. It is true that the Canadian Tariff is very much higher than the Tariff of this Island. Tea and sugar, imported under the Canadian tariff, would probably cost higher than they cost at present; but it is equally true that a variety of articles on which we now pay duty, would then, as the manufactures of the Confederation comes to us duty free, and the saving which we should effect on these articles of Home Manufacture, would very materially exceed the excess of duty which we should pay upon foreign importations. It has been urged that under Confederation, although we might obtain from within the Confederation many articles, the manufactures of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Canadian Tariff would prevent such articles from being imported from Britain and the United States. But, Sir, if under Confederation, the people of Prince Edward Island should be able to procure British Colonial Manufactures cheaper than they can now procure similar articles from the United States or Britain, they would evidently be gainers by Confederation. The great wealth and prosperity of Britain are mainly attributable to the coal and iron which she possesses. The importance of the possession of iron was recognized many years ago. When Crœsus exhibited to Solon his treasures of gold and silver, the philosopher is said to have remarked to the king, "that whenever another should come who had better iron than he, he should be master of all his gold and silver." Coal and iron have caused Britain to become the workshop of the world. Where is there, on the face of the earth, a country that possesses more valuable deposits of iron and coal than Nova Scotia? She has an inexhaustible supply of the most valuable iron, coal and limestone, in close proximity to each other and to navigable harbors, and in addition has an abundance of fertile land. Sir, Nova Scotia with all these advantages must become a great country (Hear, hear) Why, I would ask, as a British American, do we not make an effort to develope our boundless manufacturing capabilities? Were you, Sir, to go to the enterprising people of the neighboring republic, and to enter their manufactories, you would there learn the fact that a large number of their most skilful mechanics are men from these British Provinces; this Island has contributed her proportion of these valuable men; they year after year leave their native country and never return to it, because there is at home no employment for them. (Hear, hear) The sooner the Colonists set to work to establish manufactories, the better it will be for all of us. But, Sir, to this, Confederation is requisite. Tariffs between the Provinces must be abolished. The population of Nova Scotia is too limited to support extensive manufactures, and the same thing may be said of New Brunswick. In illustration, I may be permitted to state that the latter Province is capable of producing an unlimited supply of very valuable coal oil—an article on which we last year paid in duty nearly £1 000. The proprietors of the coal oil works produce the article only in limited quantity. They cannot send their oil to Nova Scotia or to this Island, by reason of the duty which, in each of the Provinces, is imposed upon its importation, and therefore their mines are only partially worked. Unite the several Provinces, as proposed in the Report of the Quebec Conference—give to Nova Scotia, to New Brunswick, to Prince Edward Island four millions of customers. If this should be done, our young men, who have become skilful artizans in the workshops of the United States, would find employment in their native Provinces. Sir, it is impossible to over estimate the manufacturing greatness which Nova Scotia is capable of attaining. The iron and coal of that Province are now exported to Europe and the United States, where they are employed in the manufacture of articles which we now import from these countries. The time is propitious for Confederation. We may reasonably hope for the restoration of peace in the United States. Intercolonial free trade would, in the words of the resolution, promote the developement of the trade and manufacturing capabilities of the Colonies, and advance the great prosperity, but intercolonial free trade is impracticable without Confederation. The proceedings of the Conference at Charlottetown and Quebec were watched with interest by the civilized world. The people of those countries of Europe which send emigrants to America have had their attention directed to the British Provinces. Let these Provinces become consolidated, and then emigrants to come from Europe, as well as many now in the Republic, will seek the British Provinces as a home instead of the United States, now so heavily taxed. I come now, Sir, to the 5th and 6th Resolutions:—

"5. That the Report of the Conference of Delegates from the British North American Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, taken as a whole, contains a declaration of principles—as the basis of a Federal Union—which this House considers just to the several Provinces and Colonies."

"6. *Resolved*, that this House, believing that only by mutual concessions and compromises the several British North American Provinces and Colonies can ever agree upon those principles which shall form the basis of a Union, orders that the Report of the Conference of Delegates from these several Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, be published throughout this Colony for the deliberate consideration of the people, on whom will devolve the acceptance or rejection of the proposed Union."

I am sorry to say, Sir, that I have no hope of carrying a majority in favor of the declaration, that the principles of Union contained in the Report of the Quebec Conference are just to this Island. I believe them to be so. I declared myself in favor of this Report, while at the Conference, because I so believed, and, Sir, I trust I have too high a respect for myself to say now, that the principles of Union therein laid down are not just to this Island, because the great majority of the people regard them as unjust. The resolutions which form the Report, as I have already stated, are the results of mutual deference and concession, and in my humble judgment are such as we should eagerly accept. I have been told, Sir, that by advocating the adoption of the principle of the Quebec Report, I am placing myself in antagonism to the people of this Island, and especially to my own constituents. I, Sir, should consider myself unworthy of the confidence reposed in me, as a representative of the people, were I to shrink from the full expression of my opinion upon a great subject deeply affecting the interests of the Colony, simply because my constitutents, or the people of the Colony, are supposed to entertain different views. The views or wishes of my constituents upon any question can, in themselves, have no influence upon my opinion. In the present instance, I believe Confederation would promote the best interests of the Island. I may be aware that my constituents think otherwise, and are opposed to Confederation. My individual opinion may remain unchanged, but a knowledge of the views and wishes of my constituents would most materially influence my conduct. Popular opinion is proverbially changeable, and I expect ere long to hear many of those who now denounce the Report of the Quebec Conference admit that after mature deliberation, they have come to the conclusion that its principles are just. I regard the terms of the Report of the Quebec Conference—so far as they relate to Prince Edward Island—to be, in a financial aspect, just, and even liberal. The average indebtedness of the Provinces generally is equal to $25 per head of the population. The debt of Prince Edward Island is, in reality, but little in excess of $2 per head. By the terms of the Report we should receive annually from the General Government the interest of an amount equivalent to $25 per head of our population—less the interest of our actual indebtedness—or in other words we should receive annually £30,000 currency from the General Government, over and above the interest upon our public debt. I shall, doubtless, be told that under Confederation our Tariff would be raised so as to yield a revenue equivalent to $25 per head of the aggregate population of the provinces, and that therefore we should pay annually, in extra taxation, a sum exceeding £30,000. I, Sir, contend that, under Confederation, we should, for reasons which I have already stated, pay less in duties than we pay at present, notwithstanding the higher Tariff. If I am correct in this view of the matter, it is clear that the £30,000 a year would be gained, as a consequence of Confederation. This £30,000 a year, together with the annual allowance of 80 cents per head of our population, estimated according to the census of 1861, and a few other items, would be sufficient for our requirements. (Laughter.) But, say the opponents of Confederation, "our population will, in a few years, be double what it now is, while our income from the General Government will not increase." I think I am justified in asserting that the expense of maintaining our Government would not be materially increased though our population should be doubled. The allowance of 80 cents per head is fixed alike to all the Provinces. When the population of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, shall be increased to 7,000,000 or 8,000,000, those Provinces will receive no more than 80 cents per head of their population in 1861. In all the British North American Provinces Revenue is derived chiefly from Customs and Excise. When the population of the Confederation shall be double what it now is, the consumption of articles paying duty will be vastly increased, and the Revenue proportionally augmented. Reduction of taxation would follow, as a matter of course. The great Public Works of Canada will by and bye be completed, and her strongholds fortified, her Canals widened and completed, and her Lakes and Rivers rendered navigable; and, Sir, I consider myself fully justified in assuming that the increase of population throughout the Confederation, and more especially in Canada, will be so rapid, the consumption of duty paying articles so great, that at no distant day the rate of taxation per head, required for the maintenance of the General Government, will be less than is now paid in Prince Edward Island, the least taxed of the Provinces. In Canada, Roads, Bridges, and other local works are not provided for from the general Revenue, as in Prince Edward Island. The alleged excessive local taxation in some of the municipalities of Upper Canada has been adduced, in order to terrify the people of this Island, and cause them to oppose Confederation. The people of Prince Edward Island would not be, in any degree, affected by the local or municipal taxation in Upper Canada. If taxation for local or municipal purposes be excessive in Canada, does not this fact warrant the assumption that the people of Upper Canada would be our allies in the work of keeping as low as possible the general taxation, by which alone we should be affected. Mr. Speaker, let it be assumed that there are disadvantages to which Confederation would subject us. Assume, Sir, that we should have to pay for our tea and sugar one penny per pound more than we pay at present, and a half-penny a yard more for Calico. Do not such advantages fade into insignificance when contrasted with the benefits which would result from Confederation! The old Colonies—now included in the United States of America—in little more than half a century, under Confederation, became one of the most prosperous nations on the face of the earth. Those Colonies entered upon their Confederate existence possessing fewer advantages than we now enjoy. Why should we not emulate their example? Why shall we not unite or resources, and enter upon the career of prosperity which is clearly open to us! What Confederation did for the older Colonies, it would do for us. We have Railways, and Steamboats, and machinery, which they had not. We have a country in many respects equal to theirs. Are we prepared to admit that our people are inferior to the old Colonists, or to the Americans of the present day! We have hitherto imported tubs, and buckets, and wooden wares from the United States. Have we not wood wherewith to manufacture these articles! Why should we send to the United States, or across the broad Atlantic for the simplest iron castings, seeing that we export from Nova Scotia to those countries, both coal and iron? Confederation would prove our best security against foreign invasion, and preserve to us our Monarchical Institutions. I feel, Sir, that I am approaching what my eloquent friend, the member for Charlottetown, Mr. Brecken, is pleased facetiously to designate the "glory argument." I attach great importance to this glory argument. I desire to live under Monarchical institutions, and the glorious flag of old England. Sir, there are in this House honorable members who smile when the glory argument is mentioned. Their fathers made great sacrifices in order that they might enjoy those privileges which are the inheritance of British subjects. In the Maritime provinces are now to be found the descendants of men who left the United States upon the declaration of Independence, abandoning their property and the homes in which their children had been born, impelled to do so by the "glory argument." The American loyalists were attached to Monarchical Institutions. They valued their privileges as British subjects; and rather than become Republicans they made the greatest sacrifices and sought new homes on British soil, in the wilderness in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. But, Sir, to return to the commercial argument. Confederation would give us better markets than we now have for our agricultural produce. Halifax, Boston and St. John would become great and populous cities, the emporiums of trade and manufactures; and, with these capitals we have, even now, daily communication. In these cities we should find ready and greatly increased markets for our produce, and consequently should be better able to bear increased taxation than we are at present to pay the taxes to which we are subject. Confederation would also give us the Inter-colonial Railway, with its many advantages. But, Sir, one at least of the opponents of Confederation—a gentleman high in position in this Island—has argued as a reason why we should not accept Confederation, that the Inter-colonial Railway would injure the people of this Colony. It would, says the gentleman to whom I allude, be the means of bringing under cultivation large tracts of wilderness land in New Brunswick, the produce of which would compete with the productions of this Island. The Inter-colonial Railway, argues the same authority, "would afford great facilities for supplying the St. John and Halifax markets with grain and other agricultural produce to be brought from Upper Canada." These, Sir, are specimens of the arguments which have caused the people of this Island to regard Confederation as a project which would ruin them. Imagine, Mr. Speaker, the farmers of the far West, by means of this railway supplying the markets of St. John and Halifax with "grain and other agricultural produce"—potatoes!—to the prejudice of the people of Prince Edward Island. In the markets of Upper Canada the prices of grain, and other agricultural products are usually higher than in Prince Edward Island, and the nearest of those markets is at least one thousand miles further from St John or Halifax, than is any portion of Prince Edward Island.

7. Resolved, That until the larger Maritime Provinces and Canada shall have mutually agreed upon terms of Union, it is inexpedient that the people of Prince Edward Island should be called upon to decide on the question.

Prince Edward Island is the smallest of the Provinces or Colonies, and no action which this Legislature may take will, in the smallest degree, affect the great question of confederation. If New Brunswick and Nova Scotia reject Confederation, we shall not be allowed to avail ourselves of the privileges which Confederation would confer upon us; on the other hand, should New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland adopt the Resolutions of the Quebec Conference, the Opposition of Prince Edward Island would be of no importance; we should, in the latter case, be obliged to enter the Confederation. It must, therefore, be evident that, until the larger Provinces agree to Confederation, it will be inexpedient to appeal to the people of this Island upon the question. The concluding resolution proposes:

8. Resolved, That in case the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada, should at any time mutually agree upon the basis of a Union, the question be then forthwith submitted to the decision of the people of this Island.

I, this afternoon, observed that the countenances of several of my colleagues in the Government wore a more than usually pleasing expression. The occasion of this happiness was a telegram which had been received, announcing the defeat of the Hon. Mr. Tilley, the leader of the government of New Brunswick, and of several of his colleagues. This my friends regard as the defeat of the Confederation scheme in that Province, and they are happy. I, Sir, deeply regret the result of the recent elections in New Brunswick. I dread the consequences. My honorable friend, Mr. Tilley, informs me that, although "beaten," he is not "conquered." I, Sir, would much prefer to share defeat with that gentleman, in the great cause in the advocacy of which he has fallen, than participate in the victory which his opponents imagine they have gained. No honorable member should, in my opinion, object to the resolution just read. I hold, Mr. Speaker, that, circumstanced as we are, and knowing as we do that nine-tenths of the electors of this Island are opposed to Confederation, it would be improper in us to pledge our constituents to the scheme of Confederation. On the other hand, Sir, I contend that this House, acknowledging, that the people should be consulted, before any such proposition shall be accepted, is not justified in declaring that the people will not accept Confederation. The subject will hereafter receive more deliberate consideration than has heretofore been given to it, and I confidently look forward to a great change in public opinion. There are several subjects in the Report upon which I have not remarked. These will be dealt with by the gentlemen who will follow me, and at the close of the debate, I shall endeavor to reply to some of the many objections which I believe will be urged against Confederation.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, June 5, 1865.

FIVE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

Father Point, May 29.—The steamship *Belgian*, from Liverpool 18th, and Londonderry, 19th instant, arrived this afternoon.

Earl Russell had addressed a letter to the heads of various departments, dated May 11, stating that in the existing state of the civil war in America, and the uncertainty as to its continuance, it appears to Her Majesty's Government that the time has arrived for ceasing to enforce so much of the orders given in the letter of Jan. 31, 1862, requiring belligerent vessels to leave British ports within 24 hours, and restricting their supplies to their actual requirements.

The various customs collectors at all the ports have been notified of these changes.

The *Times* of the 18th, in its city article, says: "The English funds yesterday experienced a fall of 1-4 per cent., chiefly in consequence of rumors of a failure at Bombay, involving liabilities to the extent of between three and four million sterling, but of which rumors there is a complete absence of confirmation. At the same time the allegation that enlistments are now being allowed at Washington and New York against the French in Mexico increased the feeling of depression, while some disappointment was also felt at the tone of the proclamation of President Johnson pronouncing Jeff. Davis and many other Americans to have been accomplices in the recent assassination, a charge which, without such proof as has rarely been accumulated in any case, will not be entertained for an instant by any one who shares, as all Englishmen do, the conviction of Mr. Seward and the late President, that assassination is a crime totally repugnant to the American character."

The *Daily Telegraph* says:—"Not many days ago we expressed the belief that Johnson would have to choose between the policy of Butler and the policy of Grant. Already the choice is made and it is, to our thinking, disastrous and insensate."

The *Star* says:—"The most exaggerated reports have been put in circulation as to the policy of the Government of the United States toward Great Britain, Canada, France and Mexico. It would be only just to take the policy of the United States Government from itself, or from its acknowledged organs, but it has suited the purposes of interested operators to accept instead the wild and reckless representations of newspapers that are unrecognised and disavowed."

The Central Committee of the Society of Friends in England have issued a renewed call under the present aspect of affairs in America for increased contributions in aid of the emancipated slaves.

On the 17th an influential meeting in aid of the National Committee of the Freedmen's Aid Association was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel. The Duke of Argyle presided, and made a speech on the claims of the American people upon the sympathy of Englishmen with regard to the question of slavery, and appealing for liberal help. Lord Houghton moved a resolution expressing indignation and grief at the loss sustained by the atrocious assassination of President Lincoln, but firm confidence that, notwithstanding the loss of their great leader, the Emancipationists will steadily progress until the four million slaves are free. The resolution was carried. Sir Fowell Buxton moved a resolution rejoicing in the success of the Freedmen's Aid Association in America, and gratefully acknowledging the aid Americans had afforded to England in times of need, and asserting it to be the duty of the British people, under the present circumstances, to make their best efforts in aid of the slaves set free. The resolution was carried.

The grand cross of the French Legion of Honor was conferred on Herr von Bismark on the ratification of the treaty between France and the Zollverein.

The Russian squadron conveying the remains of the Czarowitz, which put into Plymouth, was received with appropriate honors.

The following private telegrams from India are published:—

Calcutta, May 9.—The market for cotton goods is decidedly improving.

Bombay, May 12.—Cotton 270. Commercial distrust prevails. The monsoon commenced three weeks earlier than usual. Cotton shipments for the fortnight 63,000 bales.

London Money Market.—Funds drooping and dull. There was an average demand for discount, with rates unchanged. The rumored failure of a large East India firm is lacking confirmation.

LATEST VIA LONDONDERRY.

London, May 18—evening. In the House of Commons to-night, Mr. Griffiths, who is notorious for putting strange questions, called attention to President Johnson's proclamation for the Capture of Jeff. Davis, and asked Lord Palmerston whether he would intimate to the United States Government that extremities would be deplored by the whole civilized world.

The American news per steamer City of Washington had no material effect. The punishment threatened against the rebel leaders, if carried out, may act unfavorably, but it is universally admitted, if they are proved guilty of complicity in the assassination, they are entitled to no mercy.

The *Daily News* says President Johnson is fulfilling the expectations of his friends and enemies by the vigor with which he is pursuing the leaders of the rebellion. It warns him against mixing party feeling with public justice, and credits the leaders of the Abolition party with being animated by a lenient and magnanimous policy.

A grand state ball has been given at Buckingham Palace by order of the Queen. Mr. Adams and family, and the members of the American embassy, were absent on account of Mr Lincoln's death.

The American Consul at Stockholm writes to the London *Times*, to show the sympathy evinced by Sweden in reference to the assassination of President Lincoln. The King promptly sent his Adjutant to the American Minister to express his regret and condolence, while the Minister of Foreign affairs called in person.

Rio Janeiro, April 25.—It is reported that war has broken out between Peraguay and the Argentine Republic.

The following is a digest of the news per the steamer Helvetia, now due at New York.

The great East India house of Cama & Co. of London, Liverpool and Bombay, is reported to have suspended. Liabilities three and a half millions sterling.

In the House of Commons on the 13th, Mr. White put in a question as to whether the Government intended to withdraw belligerent rights from the so called Confederate States. Lord Palmerston said the course of the transaction with regard to the belligerent rights of the two parties was this: The President of the United States issued a proclamation declaring the blockade of all the coast and certain ports of the Southern Confederacy, in accordance, he said, with the law of nations. Now, a blockade, according to the law of nations, is a belligerent right which can only accrue to States which are at war. When the President declared that a blockade was established, the only course was to acknowledge his right to do so as a belligerent, and submit to it. That necessarily involved that the other party, who was a belligerent, was entitled to be so considered. Of course, whenever the United States ceased to exercise the right they now claimed, there would be no necessity for acknowledging belligerent rights either on one side or the other.

In the House of Lords Lord Houghton made a similar inquiry, the term "concession of belligerent rights." Earl Russell replied in substance similar to Lord Palmerston, but objected to the wording of the question and to the time of putting it as most inopportune.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH FROM THE STATES.

New York, May 30.—Belgian at Farther Point brings Liverpool dates to the 19th instant. Earl Russell has instructed heads of Departments that belligerent vessels be not required to leave British ports within twenty-four hours as heretofore..... Large meetings are being held in England and liberal contributions in aid of the free blacks of America..... Flour market dull and tending downward. Wheat firm, Corn 20s 3d. Provisions quiet. Consols 90⅜ a 90⅝.

New York, May 30.—President Johnson has signed an amnesty proclamation; among the classes excepted from its benefits are diplomatic or foreign agents of the rebel Government, military officers above the rank of colonel and lieuts. in the navy, all officers educated by the United States at West Point or at the Naval Academy, judiciary officers who joined the rebels, Governors of rebel States and participators in the rebellion, whose property is worth over $2000.—A special clause is inserted providing for cases of pardon by the President..... Another proclamation appoints loyal provisional Governor in North Carolina..... Gold 138¼.

New York, May 30, p.m.—It will take sixty million dollars to pay off the army, and the money is ready..... It is believed that Breckenridge has reached *Texas*..... The *Tribune's* despatch says the letter of condolence from the Empress Eugene to Mrs. Lincoln, although received some time since by the French Minister, is detained by him, evincing ill-feeling on his part..... A despatch from Nashville, says Gen. Upton has captured the archives of Tennessee, together with six hundred thousand in specie, which the rebels were endeavoring to carry off..... Gold 138.

New York, May 31.—A Washington despatch says that Jeff Davis is expected to arrive there today, and will be arraigned soon after his arrival. .....Intelligence from Hayti says the insurgents have occupied the capital..... Havana advices of the 27th inst state that the Stonewall was delivered to Captain Gen as a deposit, to await instructions from the Home Government as to what disposition will be made of her. She will probably be given up to the United States..... President Johnson will soon issue a Proclamation announcing the re-establishment of peace throughout the country..... Gold 13⅝.

New York, 1st June.—Persia, with dates to the 21st, arrived.—Paris correspondence of the London press states that recruiting in the United States for Mexico creates profound sensation in France. The Empress and ministers are anxious for return of the Emperor from Algeria..... Liverpool markets exhibit little change. Breadstuffs firm; Corn 29s 3d a 29s 6d..... Judge Carton, of the U S Supreme Court, died at Nashville last evening. One hundred and twenty thousand troops will be paid off and discharged during the month of June..... To-day being the National Fast appointed by the President, all business is suspended throughout the country.

New York, June 2.—Reverdy Johnson, one of the Counsel for the assassins, is preparing a protest against the jurisdiction of the commission..... The Macon, Georgia, Telegraph says, Gen Thomas' orders for the restoration of civil authority are liberal and conciliatory, and it knows they will be met in a corresponding spirit by the people. They will tend to dissipate the gloomy apprehensions that the Federal authority is to be exercised in a rigorous and oppressive manner.

IMPORTANT OFFICIAL PAPER.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—A PROCLAMATION.

Washington, May 29.—Whereas, the President of the United States of America, on the 8th day of December, 1863, and on the 26th day of March, 1864, did, with the object of suppressing the existing rebellion, to induce all persons to return to loyalty, and to restore the authority of the United States, issue proclamations offering amnesty and pardon to certain persons who had directly or by implication participated in the said rebellion; and

Whereas, Many persons who had so engaged in said rebellion have, since the issuance of said proclamation, failed or neglected to take the benefits offered thereby; and

Whereas, Many persons who have been justly deprived of all claim to amnesty and pardon thereunder by reason of their participation, directly or by implication, in said rebellion, and continued hostility to the Government of the United States, since the date of said proclamation, now desire to apply for and obtain amnesty and pardon:

To the end, therefore, that the authority of the government of the United States may be restored, and that peace, order, and freedom may be established, I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do proclaim and declare that I hereby grant to all persons who have directly or indirectly participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, amnesty and pardon, with restoration of all rights of property, *except as to slavery and except in cases where legal proceedings under the laws of the United States providing for the confiscation of the property of persons engaged in rebellion, have been instituted*; but on the condition, nevertheless, that every such person shall take or subscribe the following oath or affirmation, and thence forward keep and maintain said oath inviolate; and which shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

"I, ———, do solemnly swear (or affirm) in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder, and that I will in like manner abide by, and faithfully support, all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God."

The following classes of persons are excepted from this proclamation:

First—All who are or who shall have been pretended civil or diplomatic officers or otherwise, or foreign agents for the Confederate Government;

Secondly—All who left judicial stations in the United States to aid the rebellion;

Third—All who shall have been military or naval officers of said pretended Confederate government, above the rank of colonel in the army or lieutenant in the navy;

Fourth—All who left seats in the Congress of the United States to aid the rebellion;

Fifth—All who resigned or tendered resignations of their commissions in the army or navy of the United States to evade duty in resisting the rebellion;

Sixth—All who have been engaged in any way in treating otherwise than lawfully, as prisoners of war, persons found in the United States service as officers, soldiers, seamen, or in other capacities;

Seventh—All persons who have been or are absentees from the United States for the purpose of aiding the rebellion;

Eighth—All military and naval officers in the rebel service who were educated by the Government in the Military Academy at West Point, or the United States Naval Academy;

Ninth—All persons who held the pretended office of Governors of States in insurrection against the United States;

Tenth—All persons who left their homes within the jurisdiction and protection of the United States, and passed beyond the Federal military lines into the so-called Confederate States, for the purpose of aiding the rebellion;

Eleventh—All persons who have been engaged in the destruction of the commerce of the United States upon the high seas, and all persons who have made raids into the United States from Canada, or been engaged in destroying the commerce of the United States upon the lakes and rivers that separate the British Provinces from the United States;

Twelfth—All persons who, at the time when they seek to obtain the benefits hereof by taking the oath herein prescribed, are in military, naval, or civil confinement or custody, or under bonds of the civil, military, or naval authorities or agents of the United States as prisoners of war, or persons detained for offences of any kind either before or after conviction;

Thirteenth—All persons who have voluntarily participated in said rebellion, and the estimated value of whose taxable property is over twenty thousand dollars;

Fourteenth—All persons who have taken the oath of amnesty as prescribed in the President's proclamation of Dec. 8, A. D. 1863, or an oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States since the date of said proclamation, and have not thenceforward kept and maintained the same inviolate;

Provided, That special application may be made to the President for pardon by any person belonging to the excepted classes; and such clemency will be liberally extended as may be consistent with the facts of the case and the peace and dignity of the U States.

The Secretary of State will establish rules and regulations for administering and recording said amnesty oath, so as to ensure its benefit to the people and guard the Government against fraud.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-ninth.

Andrew Johnson.

By the President.

W. H. Seward, Secretary of State.

THE CONSPIRACY TRIAL.

The trial of the conspirators is proceeding slowly. The Court room is crowded every day, and hundreds of ladies attend to have a look at the prisoners. On Monday Judge Holt introduced an important witness, a Mr. Hyams, who was engaged in the yellow fever innoculation plot, which was projected in Richmond, perfected in Canada, and carried out by rebel agents in Bermuda. Hyams is a short, thick, set man, with dark hair and moustache, about thirty years of age. He was dressed in a light velveteen suit, and told the story of his criminal transaction in a business-like, off hand manner, which the cross-examination failed to invalidate. Of course he has been promised a full pardon in return for this full confession of his guilt.

A Washington correspondent of the New York *Daily News*, writing on the 27th, says:

To-day I visited the court martial for the trial of the persons charged with aiding and abetting the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, and of attempting that of Mr. Seward. The Court meets in the chapel of the Penitentiary, with but a small space railed off for spectators, and the space was crowded almost to suffocation. The prisoners were seated on a bench extending across the room, against the opposite wall, heavily handcuffed and sandwiched between soldiers. They were not the desperate looking, heartless murderers I expected to see. Payne, undoubtedly the most guilty of the whole, is a fine looking man, with a piercing eye and an intellectual forehead, over which he allows his hair to fall in such a manner as to conceal its fine form. In a crowd I would take him to be among the last of men to do murder for hire. The Doctor who dressed Booth's leg is an intelligent looking man of middle age. While I was present one of his female negro servants was brought forward to swear against him. When told to raise her right hand she raised the left, and this she did twice, not seeming to know the difference. If such be the intelligent citizens of African descent who are to be made witnesses of, it is a custom more to be honored in the breach than in the observance. She gave her testimony with some flippancy, seemingly well drilled in what she was to say.

Mrs. Sarratt sat at the corner with a veil on, concealing her face. Once I saw it, and I could not but regret that the correspondents of the New York press had so far travelled from the truth as to represent her as a she demon in appearance. She had a mild blue eye, and finely moulded features, and seemed to me, at the distance, to be the very woman one would like to counsel with in distress, and who would share her crust with one in a suffering condition. She may be guilty; perhaps she is; but if she is she belies her looks.

Destruction of Printing Offices by a Mob.—Some extraordinary scenes were witnessed in San Francisco on the day of the death of President Lincoln. About 3 p. m. a party of 150 well dressed men started for the office of the *Democratic, Press* and formed a semicircle around it. The leaders then went up stairs and threw the type, stands, and all the material of the office into the street, where what was not already destroyed was broken up amid the cheers of an immense throng. The police of the city, about fifty in number, drilled as infantry corps, arrived at the spot with loaded muskets and fixed bayonets, when the party retired, having completed their work. The office at the time of being destrowed was draped in mourning, and the American flag was suspended in front at half mast. The next office visited was the *News Letter*, published by one Marriott, an Englishman, which was also destroyed, the police arrived too late to prevent it. The office of the *Catholic Monitor*, a Copperhead paper, was partially sacked before the arrival of the police. A demonstration was made upon the office of the *Echo du Pacifique*, which was only saved by great efforts and the representations that its destruction would involve that of the *Alta*, a loyal paper in the same building. The *Echo* is a French paper and has been very abusive towards our Government. The office of the *Occidental*, another Copperhead sheet, was also completely destroyed. At the office of the *Echo du Pacifique* Gen. McDowell made a speech in which he intimated that he should have suppressed these papers, and that the *Echo* should not be issued again. The offices of the *Franco Americaine* and the *Voz de Mejico* were also partly destroyed, the latter by mistake. The inflammable population were so furious that there seemed to no bounds to their rage, and several regiments of infantry and cavalry and the batteries were ordered out. The troops patrolled the streets all night. Those who led the rioters are named in the papers, but no arrests have been made.

Jeff. Davis and his Dressing-gown.—Two "graphic" descriptions of the capture of Mr. Davis are given in the journals of yesterday. Every incident related in the one is contradicted in the other. We have not the slightest doubt that both are equally correct, and purely the inventions of imaginative correspondents. One account says that "No alarm was given until the advance guard, under command of Captain C. S. Hudson, were within a few rods of the tent—all being folded in the arms of Morpheus. A rush was immediately made, the tent surrounded, and the entire party gobbled without difficulty." Supposing this to be true, it may account for the ridiculous story that Mr. Davis was captured in female apparel. If he was folded "in the arms of Morpheus," his first proceeding, upon being so rudely awakened, would naturally have been to draw on his dressing gown—a convenience inseparable from officers of rank when at leisure from camp duties. The Michigan cavalrymen, not being familiar with that very comfortable, but somewhat feminine looking article of attire, might naturally have mistaken it for a lady's wrapper, and their imaginations furnishing them with all the details of womanly accoutrement, it was easy for a little camp-fire coloring to finish the picture so greedily accepted at headquarters. This system of persecution adopted against a fallen foe is unworthy of Americans. Men of honor may kill their vanquished enemies—they do not insult them.—*New York News.*

The Passport Humbug.—The Charlottetown *Herald* compliments Mr. Sherman, the American Consul at that place, for modifying the rigors of the Passport system there. By his voluntary exertions the fee has been reduced from 22s. 6d. to 12s. 6d, while passports may be secured by simply having the ordinary seal of the city attached to the same, with the *rise* of the Consul. Were we of Charlottetown, we should tender Mr. Sherman thanks; at the same time, we might innocently ask, at the risk of being deemed impertinent, what the Americans have to fear from raids from an island lying away out in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and cut off from communication with the world for five months in the year? Why are passports required at all from the inhabitants who probably have never seen a dozen live Southerners within their territory? Why should the island Colonists who wish to travel, be compelled to pay tribute to the United States, or to line the pockets of its representatives?

To come nearer home we again utter our protest against the continuance of this obnoxious regulation as applied to New Brunswick, and we ask, with more reasonable grounds of complaint than ever, by what principle of right or reason, this regulation is enforced, now that the Rebellion is declared suppressed, the Federal armies disbanded, the Confederate combinations broken up, and the field of military operations restricted to that portion of the country that lies west of the Mississippi? If the war is over, why are we still made subject to the disabilities which a state of war might be supposed to entail? We have no doubt that proper representations by the American Consul here would induce the United States Government to at once remove a restriction which is killing the trade of both countries, creating much personal inconvenience, and exciting ill-will and general complaint on our part. Would he even do as much as Mr. Sherman at Charlottetown, the act would show a friendly disposition on his part, and a desire to relieve and conciliate. But no; the amount of Fifty Pounds per week assessed on the community is something too handsome to yield without a murmur. Poor human nature will not readily sacrifice pecuniary emoluments to right or justice.—*St. John, N. B., Courier.*

The Dublin correspondent of the Montreal *Gazette*, speaking of the Dublin Exhibition, says: "The Exhibition will be very rich in pictures and sculpture—quite up, I am told, to that of Manchester, which is saying a great deal. France has a whole wing, splendidly stocked: Belgium four or five compartments; Italy, Austria, and the Zollverein, (including Russia,) large spaces. The Colonies, too, will be well represented. Our Canadian Court, situated at the head of one of the principal staircases, between Nova Scotia and Natal, will be filled to repletion. I think it will serve the Province as a good advertisement."