with the concurrence of a large number of members.

This resolution recites among other matters the fact that an unauthorized conference was held at Quebec. It further recites the proceedings, and generally covers the ground and antecedents of the present question. In reference to the present condition of the Province—I mean the present crisis of alarm and danger—I would ask in what position would every man who truly loved his country desire to see her stand? He would desire to see his countrymen one in heart, and hand in hand, without any question agitating their minds in connection with political considerations. Our people, especially at the present moment, should have but one object in view,—to arrest the common danger and save the common country. At such a crisis it is above all things necessary, just, and wise, that there should be but one sentiment abroad—that of loyalty to the British Crown, and that of a determination to sustain the integrity of the British Empire. It is because an agitation such as this measure is inducing will produce consequences of an unfavorable character, consequences affecting the regard of the people for the institutions under which they live, and dividing their power to resist an enemy, if an enemy should venture an attack; it is because, in addition to the other objections which I have stated that I am apprehensive of such results as these, that I ask this house to pause before they consummate a union which the people do not desire—one in fact against which they have petitioned, and that at a time when they should be found warm in their allegiance, as united as one man to protect the soil on which they live and upon which they hope to die. In opposing this perilous consummation, I am discharging my duty to my constituents, to myself, and to the country at large. I do trust, that wedded though some gentlemen in high position may be to this measure, the house, in view of the present danger, will stop at the point of consummation of this act. It may matter not to me individually what the decision of this house may be; it may be that in the changes of political life, when the term of this Legislature expires, I may not be found again within these walls, or have the ambition to seek another county for the advancement of my position—but there are those behind us whose interests to all futurity are involved, and in their name I beseech the Government of the country, the constitutional guardians of the people, to pause, ere they force upon a loyal population a scheme against which the country is arrayed, and which must inevitably engender feelings which will militate in all time to come with the true interests of that common country within whose borders it is our pride and privilege to dwell. Entertaining these opinions, I offer for the consideration of the house the following amendment:—

"Whereas certain resolutions were adopted at a 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 on the 10th day of October, 1864, as the basis of a proposed Confederation of those Provinces and Colonies:

"And whereas such Conference was held without the authority or sanction of the Legislature and people of this Province:

"And whereas, since the holding of such Conference, and the adoption of such resolutions, no general election has been held in this Province, but three special elections in the important constituencies of Annapolis, Lunenburg, and Yarmouth, have taken place; and at such elections the people at the polls have expressed themselves as decidedly hostile to the proposed Confederation, and the members elected by such constituencies are prepared to act in obedience to the declared wishes of their constituencies.

"And whereas, during the last, and at the present session of the Legislature of this Province, petitions very numerously signed, and coming from every constituency in Nova Scotia, have earnestly prayed that this House would refuse its concurrence in the arrangement for the Confederation in question; and further, that no measure, involving a fundamental change in the institutions of the country, should be attempted to be passed by any Government until the people were afforded the opportunity of giving a legitimate expression to their wishes respecting it at the polls.

"And whereas, with a single exception, no petitions have ever been presented to this House praying for the ratification of such or any other scheme for Confederation, and in the absence of a decided and distinct expression in favor thereof, by a large majority of the people of this Province, it would, especially at the present crisis, be unwise, and dangerous to the peace and general interests of the country, to force the same upon the acceptance of its people.

"*Resolved therefore*, That it is the opinion and sense of this House that the Government and Legislature of this Province should be no parties to the consummation of any scheme for the Confederation of the British North American Provinces and Colonies, until an opportunity shall have been first afforded to the several constituencies of the Province at large to express their views and opinions thereon in a constitutional manner at the polls."

SPEECH OF DR. HAMILTON.

Dr. Hamilton said:—If ever there was a question of magnitude before the Legislature it is the one which is now under discussion. I would have wished that this question had been discussed more on its own merits, but unfortunately it has assumed a party aspect to a large extent, and a great deal of irrelevant matter has been introduced. It is a subject which has agitated the public mind for a length of time, though it has never assumed so serious aspect as at present. There are two or three points in which this question may be viewed. I will say first that any question should be considered first in reference to its merits, and again in connection with the parties who are in favour or are opposed to it. There is *now* some ground upon which to base an argument or there is not. In all the discussions that I have heard since this question has been up there are few persons who have taken that stand upon it which it appears to me its merits demand. As one of the people of Nova Scotia, as one having an interest in its welfare, in every particular, I would like to see the question settled on its own merits for the benefit of this Province as well as of all British North America. It is one which not only affects us at the present time, but for our future for weal and woe. Consequently a hasty decision or an improper action might be calculated to injure this Province irremediably. It is true the question has been before the public for some time. It has been discussed since the delegation returned from Canada, as well as in the Press, though not in that intelligent and deliberate manner necessary to enable the people to come to a fair and honest conclusion. We are here as a part and parcel of the British Empire—lying between the Atlantic and the Pacific—and we must be very materially affected by whatever position this question assumes in the future. In considering this question, we must not look at it in its pounds, shillings and pence view only, but in connection with our duties to the British Empire. Changes are continually going on in the world in reference to political questions more especially. We find that the constitution which Nova Scotia had some thirty or forty years ago, cannot be that of the present day. Refinement, education, and the resources of the province, are daily and gradually improving—we have to pass and amend laws continually, as the country progresses. I regret that this question should have assumed the party aspect it has. Like Education, it should be kept free from anything that may give it a party character, and should be determined in accordance with the best interests of the people. The future of these Provinces, as consolidated, has been fully portrayed by a great number of gentlemen who have preceded me and spoken on the subject, and therefore it will not be necessary for me to deal with that part of the question. It is true that Nova Scotia is a choice little Province, and has got along very well for the last fifty years, and I would be quite content to let things go on as they are, if I had a guarantee of their continuance. Whilst we have not this guarantee, it is necessary to prepare for any emergency that may arise. If the Provinces were consolidated into one empire—perhaps that term is too extensive—or a Confederation, we would have unity of action, design and sentiment. If that would be the result we would have union which is strength, population which is wealth, and knowledge which is power. I think a confederation of British North America might be so arranged and so adapted to our wants and circumstances that their combination would be brought about to benefit the whole. I will suppose that the United States had remained different and independent States, and had not united what would have been the result? Would the 13 States be the 32 United States with all the power and influence that they now exercise under the one government managed by one general legislature—with identity of interest, purpose and design. If each had chosen its own president—its own representatives—arranged its own trade relations, customs, and revenues would not the state of things on this continent present a very different aspect at this present time. I want to know if Massachusetts could have become the great manufacturing state she now is, if the hostile tariffs and arrangements that exist between the States were in force. The question has been asked if we have territory enough to form a Confederation. As far as territory is concerned, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from 42 degrees to the North Pole, British North America is much larger than the present United States, and is under British control. I think that this territory is enough to form a small kingdom in connection with the British Empire. I don't think I can do better than to read an extract from a work, speaking of the territory that would form the proposed Confederation.

"1. Come from whose hand it may, the resolution before the committee opens for discussion the broadest field, the noblest subject ever presented to the consideration of this Legislature. A day, or even a week, may be well spent upon such a theme. If, sir, such topics were oftener presented here our ideas would expand beyond the charmed, it may be, but the contracted circle of party disputations; our debates would assume a higher tone; and the hopes and aspirations of our people, clustering around their firesides, would point to interests more enduring than even the result of half our controversies—some poorly paid office, or Paltry Provincial institution.

"2. But yet, rising with the magnitude of this great theme, I shall endeavour to catch its inspiration, remembering only that I am a Nova Scotian, the son of a loyalist, a North American, a true subject of the Queen; but one whose allegiance, to be perfect, must include every attribute of manhood, every privilege of the empire.

"3. In no vain spirit do I wish also that the sentiments which I am about to utter might be heard and pondered, not only as they will be by those who inhabit half this continent but by members of the British Parliament, by Imperial statesmen, by the Counsellors who stand around, and by the Gracious Sovereign who sits upon the throne.

"4. Sir, the first question which we men of the North must put to ourselves is, Have we a territory large enough of which to form a nation? At the risk of travelling over some of the ground trodden over yesterday by the learned member for Annapolis, I think it can be shown that we have. Beneath, behind, and around us, stretching away from the Atlantic to the Pacific. All Europe, with its family of nations, contains but three million seven hundred and eight thousand, or two hundred and ninety-two thousand miles less. The United States include three hundred and thirty thousand five hundred and seventy-two square miles, or seven hundred and sixty-nine thousand, one hundred and twenty-eight less than British America.

"5. We North americans, living under the British flag have one-ninth of the whole, and this ought to give us "ample room and verge enough" for the accommodation and support of a countless population.

"6. The great Province of Canada is equal in size to Great Britain, France, and Prussia. Charmed by her classic recollections, how apt are we to magnify every thing in the Old World, and to imagine that Providence has been kind to her alone. Yet the noble St. Lawrence is equal in proportion to the Nile—the great granary of the East which, from the days of patriarchs, has fed millions with its produce. Take the Italian's Po, the Frenchman's Rhone, the Englishman's Thames, the German's Rhine, and Spaniard's Tagus, and roll them into a stream equal to the St. Lawrence. The great lakes of Canada are larger in volume than the Caspian Sea; and the Gulf of St. Lawrence (with which we are so familiar that we forget what it is), contains a surface of one hundred thousand square miles, and is as large as the Black Sea, on which the proud fleets of four hostile nations may at this very moment be engaged. Accustomed to think and feel as Colonists, it is difficult for us to imagine that the Baltic, illustrated by Nelson's achievements and Campbell's verse, is not something different from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and yet it is not. Its dimensions are about the same; its climate rigorous; its coast originally sterile, and the sea kings and warriors who came out of it made of no better stuff than are the men who shoot seals on the ice flakes of Newfoundland, till farms on the green hills of Upton, or fell trees in the forests of New Brunswick."

I think it would not require anything more from me to show that there is territory enough to make a nation, which I trust, if it does come to that—will be ruled by the mild sway of Queen Victoria. In this extensive territory we have a great many natural advantages—we have agricultural capabilities, we have forests and the fisheries, iron, coal and gold, and a variety of other sources of wealth. It is water power, coal and iron, that enable a country to excel in manufactures. We have spread all over the face of the country these substantial elements to make a people great. I need not speak of the harbours, bays and rivers, for they are innumerable. There is no more healthy climate in the world than we have in British North America. We are away from the fever of the South; and it is true we have cold, severe winter in many parts of the Provinces, but at the same time, it always invigorates the body and improves the activity of the mind, and renders the people who occupy this territory equal in physical vigor and mental power to those of any portion of the world. I might refer you to statistical tables to shew the health of the country, but I do not wish to weary you. In this territory we have about 4,000,000 of population, rapidly increasing. That population consists of farmers, fishermen and miners, seamen, lumbermen, &c., who are well calculated to bring to fruition all the various resources which are necessary for our support and happiness. There are no conflicting interests between these Provinces. Nova Scotia has fishing, mining and agricultural capabilities. New Brunswick is agricultural and lumbering; Canada the same; P. E. Island is purely agricultural; Newfoundland is a fishing community; therefore you have in these Provinces the various elements that constitute greatness, and the Union will combine these elements. Therefore an interchange of commodities would take place from time to time, as circumstances require it. There are various objections urged to a Union with Canada. One is, because she rebelled in 1837, or rather manifested a rebellious spirit. I do not like to see that spirit, but if there was not something of the same kind in Nova Scotia, there was at least a good deal of excitement and feeling manifested when Canada assumed the position she did. In view, however, of the many evidences of loyalty that Canada has exhibited in times past, it is hardly worth while to charge upon her that, many years since, she was dissatisfied in consequence of the existence of political grievances. Canada, we are told again, is greatly in debt. If she has an amount of debt which is greater than that of Nova Scotia at the present day, but not equal to that of New Brunswick in comparison with their respective populations, she has an equivalent of wealth to show for it that perhaps no other Province among the whole can show. I think the debt of Canada is about $21 60 a head; in New Brunswick it is $23; Nova Scotia is getting fast on to the stage that Canada has reached. The last estimate was $16 or $17. By the time all her public works are completed, she will have as large a debt as Canada, but whether she will have as much to show for it as Canada is quite another question. With regard to the productive wealth of Canada, there are no less than 500,000 persons who cultivate the soil directly or indirectly. There are 237,654 persons who own and occupy farms. The value of the farms is put down at $464,322,217. The value of products annually raised is no less than $100,000,000. She has 2000 miles of railway, 216 miles of canals, valued at $16,000,000. She has 40 colleges, with 8,000 students; 8,000 Grammar and Common Schools, educating 500,000 pupils, and the most perfect system of education in the world. If this is a country that is dangerous to unite with, it appears to me that the gentlemen around these benches misunderstand the resources and state of Canada at the present time. In Canada every fifth person is at school—in Nova Scotia one-tenth,—that is, under the old law. The per centage of education in Canada is greater than that in New York, Massachusetts, or Pennsylvania. I think, therefore, that those who undertake to say that Canada is a country not to be desired—that we cannot either properly or judiciously unite with her—have not taken the trouble to inform themselves upon these facts that are within their reach. The greatest misrepresentation has been sent to the country by the Anti-Union press concerning Canada. Not a fight occurs, not a train runs off the track and kills one or two persons in that Province but it is blazoned forth in that press; but you hear nothing of the great capabilities of the country, and the surplus of crops and revenue.—With regard to the subject of Union and the Quebec scheme, I shall only remark on one or two points, for the whole subject has been already most fully and ably discussed. Some 15 years ago the hon. member for East Halifax introduced a bill to provide for representation by population; but I think nothing was done with it. A few years afterwards it was introduced again. We had a very unequal representation: Queens with her population of 9,000 had as large a representation as Pictou with her 29,000 people. Hants had five, Annapolis three, and Kings four members, with nearly an equal population. This discrepancy could not be accounted for on any just principle. This state of things has been the result of the progress of time. Whenever a dead-lock occurred between parties, and government necessities demanded it, the representation of some particular county was increased. It will be remembered what a hue and cry was raised when a bill was introduced by the present Judge in Equity to alter and equalize the representation of the country. My own opinion is that there is no other true principle than representation by population. It has been said that wealth should be the basis. When discussing this question with a gentleman who has since passed away, I asked him, as Halifax has an amount of wealth equal to Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, Yarmouth and Digby combined would you give her the same representation that all these counties have? Certainly you would not. Take production again. I might bring statistics to show that there is more production in Antigonishe than in any other county in the province, according to her population. Guysboro is another county which produces very heavily in fish, etc. Therefore I cannot see that it is possible to base representation upon any other principle than population. My attention has been turned to this subject ever since the hon. member for East Halifax introduced the bill I spoke of, and I have come to this conclusion. If you form a union with the other provinces, on what other principle can you base it? You could not base it on wealth, or production, or territory. Population is the only true and safe principle. Therefore, so far as that principle in the Quebec scheme is concerned, it has my hearty cooperation.

With regard to the financial part of the scheme, that has been so fully and ably dealt with by Mr. Archibald and other gentlemen, who are generally considered *au fait* with figures, that it would be idle for me to say anything on the subject. A great deal has been said on the subject, and were I to compare all the calculations that have been made, you would see what a diversity of opinion exists. Take the resources of Canada and divide it into population, and do the same with Nova Scotia or any other of the Colonies, and you will find pretty much the same result—only a few cents difference. Take the expenses of the government, and you find very much the same thing. Canada is obliged to collect a large amount of revenue on certain articles of importation, for she manufactures more largely than we do.

I shall now turn your attention to another feature in this question. Let me suppose that there is an individual desperately sick. The physician attending him feels hardly able to grapple with the disease alone, and calls in assistance. The physicians then hold a consultation, but they may disagree. How are they to settle the difficulty? They will consult the best authorities on the question and the men who have written and given the results of their experience, and the issue is that the weight of authority carries the day. The same thing may be said in respect to a Court of Law. The Judges consult the authorities, and bring to bear all the examples relating to the case, and decide accordingly. I do not wish to draw any invidious comparisons between individuals, but I would ask who have advocated Confederation in Nova Scotia. We find on the list the late R. J. Uniacke, the present Judge in Equity, Mr. Howe, the Chief Justice, the Provincial Secretary, Mr. Archibald, Hon. Mr. Henry, Hon. Mr. McCully, Hon. Mr. Ritchie, and others I need not now name. Here is an array of men who have occupied a very prominent position in Nova Scotia; every one of these gentlemen have expressed themselves in favor of Union, and no better authorities can be cited than they. Mr. Howe said, years ago, it was the dream of his boyhood and the purpose of his political life but I am told that it was only a theory with him—theory generally precedes practice. Now is the time to put that theory into practice—never was there a more auspicious period to do so than now. When I say that the most eminent men in this Province have supported, and are supporting Confederation, I need hardly add that the same thing may be fairly stated of the other Provinces. Whom have we in opposition to this scheme? We have the hon. member for Guysboro, who may be presumed to be the leader of the Opposition since he introduced the amendment to the original resolution. We have Mr. Jones, Mr. Andrew Uniacke, and two or three other gentlemen in Halifax. I do not wish to make any invidious comparisons between these gentlemen. If you can produce an array of talent against Confederation like what I have given as supporting it, I would like to hear of it. I will merely say that from the year 1834 up to the present time I have been a reader of the "Nova Scotian" and "Morning Chronicle," and I must confess that if I have been impressed in favour of Confederation it has been from perusing the able and eloquent writings and speeches of Mr. Howe on the subject. Mr. Howe's opposition cannot now effect anything, he cannot wipe away the principles to establish which he has devoted his whole public life. It will be remembered that, some time ago, he wrote a letter denying that he had written anything on the subject of Confederation.

Now, I have always entertained the opinion that he has been opposing the scheme from its very inception by the present government. I have read his productions so long, that I can detect them anywhere. If he would come out under his own name, and oppose the scheme fairly and honorably, I would respect him much more than I can possibly under present circumstances. He said he had not written a line to any one, except to his wife. A gentleman told me that he saw an article that was corrected by Mr. Howe's own hand; and yet a short time before he published a letter in "The Reporter" which was copied generally by the press, stating that he had not written an article for several months. I received a letter last night from a friend of mine in the country, who writes that he hopes the House will adopt Confederation. He is one of the most influential men in my own county, and has been an admirer of Mr. Howe, but he speaks in the strongest terms against the course pursued by that gentleman on this question. I met a gentleman last night from Cornwallis, and I asked him what was the feeling in Kings. "Mr. Howe has done two things," was the reply; "he has cemented the Conservatives to a man, and has divided the progressive Liberals from those who are opposed to union and progress."

As respects the hon. member for East Halifax, he has been on both sides of this question. He puts me in mind of the boy who complained to his mother that Bill took all his portion of the bed out of the middle, and he had to lie on both sides. I regret that he should have introduced into this debate the reference he made to the Queen, to the representative of Majesty, and to Gen. Gordon. It is not necessary to refer to the papers that support Confederation. It has been said that clergymen have no right to deal with matters like this. Clergymen, I contend, exercise their legitimate functions when they instruct their people in an important crisis. Therefore I believe that the religious press is only performing its duty in discussing this question and advising the people on the subject. Temperate and argumentative articles have appeared in its columns, and no fault can be found with it for pursuing this course. As respects the secular press, the weight of authority is in favor of Confederation. The only influential press that opposes the measure is the Chronicle, and we all know the inconsistent and extraordinary course it has pursued. Therefore, whether you take the leading presses or the ablest minds in the country, you find the overwhelming weight of authority in favor of Confederation.

I have had consultation with many leading men in my own County and they have said that they believe the time has come to adopt Union.—As respects the question of an appeal to the people, that has been very effectually settled by Mr. Blanchard, and the circumstance which was brought to the notice of the House by the hon member for Guysboro does not apply at all. Mr. Johnston succeeded, after a great deal of exertion, in passing the Municipal Incorporation Bill through the Legislature, but it was with the proviso that it should be left to the acceptance or rejection by the people. That was the clog put on it by the Liberal Government. The only two Wards in Kings that adopted it were those where meetings were held and the question was fully discussed. An important change took place some years ago in reference to Government when the Departmental System was introduced. I do not remember that it was submitted to the polls. I believe the peoples' representatives have the right to judge of the matter themselves. It will be remembered that the *Morning Chronicle's* second exposition of a well known despatch from the Col. Secretary was, that it meant "the well understood wishes of the educated portion of the people as expressed by their representatives." Assuming this to be correct, I think it would be found that if the present question was submitted to the polls, we would not get "the well understood wishes" of the more intelligent portion of the community, as this question would be mixed up with the school bill, and other matters connected with the government of the day. I believe the people have the right, not only to discuss questions of public policy at meetings held for that purpose, but they have the right of petitioning. I see by the papers that they have been holding a meeting at Canning for the purpose of discussing this question. This is not the first one held there. Being a native of the County, I represent, and for upwards of thirty years a practicioner of medicine in Canning and vicinity, I ought to know the people pretty well, and while I must acknowledge having received a great deal of kindness and professional support there, as well as having very warm political supporters, but there is no place in the North Riding where political feelings are carried to a greater extent than in Canning, and consequently where I have stronger political opponents. There is no difficulty at any time in getting up a political meeting in Canning, especially when the subject appears to affect party interests. I believe this meeting was suggested by parties in Halifax for the purpose of influencing the votes of the members for North Kings on the subject of Confederation. I have some knowledge of the mode of getting up and circulating petitions, and do not think that petitions can always be looked upon as the exact exponent of public sentiment. Many persons are careless about the matter and allow their names to be placed there without considering the subject, especially when no pecuniary interests are a stake.

New Brunswick has been referred to in this debate. All I can say is there has been a great change in the public sentiment of that Province since the election a year ago. Every constituency that has since been opened has returned a Confederate; Fredericton, for instance, returned Mr. Fisher by an overwhelming majority. This change must occur wherever the question is fairly and temperately viewed and discussed. There is no use denying the fact that the time has come when we should unite; everything that is transpiring around us points to that result. I have not come to a hasty determination to support this resolution. This question is like a jug of yeast; it must go through a certain amount of ferment; but it will come out all right in the end. Mr. Howe, and Mr. Annand, who are now opposing this measure, would be the first to put their shoulder to the wheel and carry Confederation, if they could come into office to morrow. Under these circumstances I do not feel disposed to stand in the way of a question that must come sooner or later. These are the convictions of my own mind. It is not because I feel disposed to occupy any preferment. If the House were dissolved to morrow I should not regret if I went home and never returned to public life. I often wish I had never studied or paid any attention to political history; it only keeps a person constantly perplexed.

Let me here mention what struck my observation on a visit I paid to Canada last autumn. I travelled some 3000 miles and attended two Public Exhibitions. I was much gratified by what I saw of the great manufacturers. Some of the most delicate surgical instruments are manufactured in that province. Agricultural Implements are largely produced in the country. The cloth manufactures are far beyond anything I had expected to see. I attended a ploughing match, and there saw some 101 teams enter for competition; fully 6000 persons were present. Never in the course of my life did I see such excellent work, but what surprised me particularly was the fact that I saw a host of boys discussing the merits of the ploughing. When boys took such an interest, as that in ploughing, I thought there need be no fears as to future agricultural operations in Canada. Whilst in the Province I mixed as much as I could with the people, for I wished to learn all I could about Canada's industrial resources, the intelligence of the people, and especially her fruit culture. When persons found I was from the Lower Provinces, they would ask me, "What are you afraid of? Why do the Lower Provinces oppose the Union with us?" I must say that from what I saw of the Agriculturalists they are a very desirable class of people to associate with. Under all the circumstances I cannot think we have any reason to fear a union with the flourishing province of Canada. On the contrary I believe that Nova Scotia will be largely benefitted by the consolidation of all the Provinces of British North America under one government and under the protection of the British Empire.

SPEECH OF MR. KILLAM.

Mr. Killam said: I rise to deliver to you a message, not from the Lieutenant Governor, not from the Legislative Council, not from the Colonial Secretary; but from 16,000 of the loyal inhabitants of this province whom I have the honour of representing in this Assembly. They are closely identified in interest and feeling with the inhabitants of the other portions of the Province, are known far and wide, as well as in this country, for their industry, enterprise, were the first pioneers in one of our great industrial pursuits—one that has done more to elevate our position and make Nova Scotia known far and wide than any other. This Message is sent to me by these To protest in their behalf against a Union of this Province with Canada, believing as they do, that such a measure will demoralize the people, alenate their affections from Great Britain and endanger British institutions, transfer our revenues into the hands of strangers, disarrange financial affairs, and jeopardize our local improvements. We, as the oldest colony of British North America, have enjoyed a Legislative Assembly for over one hundred and Responsible Government for 20 years, with full liberty to levy and appropriate taxes; and to deprive us of these privileges, as proposed by the resolution, they believe to be most unjustifiable. In making these statements they do not arrogate to themselves any superiority over other counties. They acknowledge the claims of all other sections to consideration, and are proud that this is our common country. It is with pride they remember that they can claim as their own one of the ablest statesmen that ever stood on the floor of this house, to watch over the interests of the people of Nova Scotia. He did not come here, like our leading men of the present day, prepared to destroy, but to improve the constitution we now possess, and not to hand over this Province to another country, irrespective of the wishes of its people.

The arguments that have been advanced in support of this resolution shew that the scheme is more one of theory than of practice. The argument which they have most labored is this: that it is necessary to unite with Canada in order to ensure our common safety. Everybody admits that numbers are strength; but those numbers must be in a position to assist each other. If you have a large territory, exposed at all points to danger,—just as Canada,—separated from you by a great tract of country, you cannot expect assistance from it. Its union with you does not bring strength, but weakness.—If you are to have trade it must be in a position to afford it.—If we look at the map, and see the configuration of British North America, you can recognize how absurd are the arguments of the advocates of Union. Nova Scotia has no natural relation whatever to Canada.

[Mr. Killam here pointed out the relative positions of Nova Scotia and Canada on the map, and contended that neither in defence nor trade would we gain any benefit by union.]

Between us and Canada extends a vast tract of desert country.—If you look at the water communication, you see how roundabout it is, and unsatisfactory as far as trade relations are concerned. In winter the St. Lawrence is closed for five months, and the communication must be made either by the United States, or over the uninhabited waste lying between New Brunswick and Canada. We cannot expect any assistance from that country in case of war, for the nature of its territory, running along for many hundreds of miles by the frontier of the American Republic, requires that all its forces should be kept at home for their own defence. In case of a war with the United States, therefore, no troops can come from Canada to our aid.

In case of a Union we could give no aid to Canada except in a financial point of view—by the revenues that they would draw from us. Separated from us as it is, it is folly to suppose it could be otherwise. When in 1783 Great Britain gave up the old colonies which she had settled on this continent the great mistake was that they had not all, including Canada, been given up in one block. I can give you a good authority on this point, as some gentlemen may take issue with me. Lord Brougham, in his historical sketches of eminent Statesmen, speaking of Sir John Jervis, says: His sagacity no man ever found at fault, while his provident anticipations of future events seemed even beyond the reach of human penetration. He says we shall give a remarkable example of this matter in 1839, in a matter of deep interest at the present moment—(if of deep interest then, then the interest is much greater now). When Lord Shelburne's peace (1783) was signed, and before the terms were made public, he sent for the Admiral, and showing them asked his opinion. I like them very well, said he, but there is a great omission. In What? in leaving Canada as a British Province. How could we possibly give it up, inquired Lord Shelburne. "How can you hope to keep it," replied the veteran warrior. With an English republic just established in the sight of Canada, and with a population of a handful of English settled among a body of hereditary Frenchmen. It is impossible; and rely on it you only retain a running sore, the source of endless disquiet and expense. Would the country bear it? Have you forgotten Wolf and Quebec? asked his Lordship. "Forgotten Wolf and Quebec." No, it is because I remember both, I served with Wolf at Quebec; having lived so long I have had full time for reflection on this matter, and my clear opinon is that if this fair occasion for giving up Canada is neglected—nothing but difficulty in either keeping or resigning it will ever after be known.

It is quite evident that Great Britain has nothing to be proud of in the management of her affairs as respects the arrangement here spoken of. She has had war with the United States and came out of it without accomplishing her objects. Consequently she neither acquired honor nor glory as far as the American people are concerned. Nothing is more probable that what has been prophesied will occur sooner or later. I have another extract bearing upon the same subject, which I do not think gentlemen will say come from a disloyal source. Mr. Oliphant, M. P., delivered an address at Stirling on America. In speaking of Republican institutions, he said:—

"To his mind there was no spectacle furnished by the world at this moment so interesting as the 30,000,000 Anglo Saxons working out by hard experience the unworked problems of Republican government. In the first place there was no other race fit to cope with these problems or to understand the principle they embodied, but that to which we and they belong. Although he did not believe in them for this country, he did most devoutly believe in republican institution for America. As an Englishman he had no sort of objection to the Monroe doctrine and the spread of Anglo Saxon republics all over the American continent—the more the better. That was the reason he had no particular objection to see the Union divided, provided slavery was abolished, nor did he think it would matter half as much as Americans imagined. Moreover he thought some day or other it must come to that. We shall be quite prepared to see Canada erected into an independent republic, and Australia, when old enough. There is no reason because we were a constitutional monarchy, and well satisfied to remain so, that we should insist upon our Colonies, who have none of the traditions or associations which had made us what we are, adopting monarchial institutions after they left us."

Here is a speech delivered by a member of the British Parliament; he believes in Republics for all America. Look at the geographical position of this continent and consider what seems to be the most natural arrangement. We have thirty millions of people directly before us, in every way more convenient to us than Canada; they are of the same stock, same feelings, as ourselves; they have everything that can make a people great and glorious. If you have to make any political arrangements, let them be consistent and natural. I do not think that the people of Nova Scotia want annexation to the United States, but why should you drive them against their interests and inclinations into a union with Canada—with which they have no natural means of communication, and no sympathy. Why, if our young women were to attempt to-morrow to go to Canada by way of the States, they would be courted and married before they got half-way there.

I have wondered often when I have heard gentlemen in this Legislature talking of the advantages that will accrue from Union with Canada. A great amount of words has been used on the subject, but I cannot see how our manufactures are to be developed by Union. Just look at the map, and see where our products would have to go. Why before they got there, they would cost so much that the people of Canada could not afford to buy them when they could purchase similar articles, which paid duty, at a lower price. We cannot expect to manufacture as largely as Canada. We cannot compete with the great manufacturing countries of the world. If the Provincial Secretary says that a great stimulus will be given to manufactures, I give him credit for thinking otherwise. We have now 300,000 people busily engaged in carrying on all the industrial pursuits that they are able to carry on. We know by the statement that has been laid on the table that Nova Scotia owns 400,000 tons of shipping. Consider what an immense amount of labor and money has been expended to create it; but also remember that ten years hence every one of them must be renewed. We owe more ships in proportion to our population than any other part of the world, and our experience has shown that they must be renewed as I have stated. This renewal will cost an immense sum of money. We are carrying on a fishery of a most extensive character, which must tax to the utmost the energies of those engaged in it. More vessels have ever sailed from my own county—filled with