

Province of Auckland is unanimous in agitating a separation from the Southern Island. The Confederation works injuriously to the interests of the people, and we are about adopting what they are most anxious to reject. The Governor of New Zealand is called the Superintendent, and is elected by the people; but here our local Governor, selected by the Government at Ottawa, would be some creature that had claims on the political party in power and who would not have popularity enough to get a seat at Ottawa. Such will be the men who will be the future Governors of these Colonies. The House of Assembly is bad enough now, but then it will be worse; they will be like the case of a certain house from which the money-changers were driven. The Provincial Secretary says he did not approach the member from Richmond. That reminded me of an old man once in my county having a copy of Bunyan's Holy War, and showing a neighbor the picture of the taking of Mansoul, said—"See, what the big D—I won't do, he has got the little d—is to do for him." Some influences are at work, as will be seen by the sudden change in the minds of some members: If we are to have British institutions, why do we not follow their pattern? When Scotland was united to England, the local Parliament was abolished, and such was the case in Ireland. If we are to have Union, let it be a legislative one. There is something grand in the idea of one Government, one Legislature—but in retaining the local legislature, we will have the expense without any corresponding benefit—the shadow without the substance,—a nest of corruption for persons who will not be able to obtain seats at Ottawa. Our present revenue is about \$3.20 per head on our population; out of this we should have to hand over to Canada for the General Government \$2.40, leaving 80 cents for all local purposes, to which we add royalty on coal and some other small amounts. The first clause of the local articles gives the power of self-taxation, which is just what we should avoid; but without it our roads and bridges will go down. There is no doubt but that the delegates anticipated in their happy moments the great position that they would occupy under Confederation, forgetting the interest of Nova Scotia in the desire for position and self aggrandisement—imitating Nero, who fiddled when Rome was burning. The member for Kings, Dr. Hamilton, said that in medical practice, physicians often try experiments, but it is only on sick men or dead bodies. Nova Scotia is neither sick nor dead, but sound and in good health, wealth, and prosperity.—The Prov. Secretary says that there are but few petitions against the measure; but was it not sent to all parts of the Province that Confederation would not be considered this session? This was no doubt a piece of strategy on the part of the Pro. Secretary, who now takes everybody by surprise. There was one petition that I presented signed by all the magistrates at sessions, with the Custos at the head,—a pretty strong indication that I at least am representing the views of my constituents. The whole history of Con-

federation is based on the ambition of some of our public men and on the necessities of Canada.—Ambition is the sin of angels, and even politicians finding that they were losing power, must go to Ottawa. They are like the evil one, as described by Milton, who would rather rule in hell than fill a subordinate place in heaven. I have no ambition to gratify, no self interest to advance—but as I was early taught that Responsible Government was government according to the well understood wishes of the people, I will not agree to sell their birthrights without asking their consent, but will on the contrary stand by what I consider the dearest rights of Nova Scotia, and the express views of those whom I represent.

#### SPEECH OF MR. FRASER.

Mr. JAS. FRASER said:—If this were a question of ordinary importance, I would content myself by giving a silent vote, as I have frequently done, but on a measure of such great consequence I do not think that I would be justified in doing so. I will tell the house candidly that my opposition to the resolution before us is not due to any hostile feelings in reference to the principle of union. I do not think it is necessary that petitions should come from my constituents to inform me of their wishes, because, living as I do among them, I must be aware of their views, and unless a very great change has taken place since I left them I know that they are not prepared to adopt the proposition of union at present. At this time last year a scheme of Confederation was before the people, and they had an opportunity of examining and judging it. They did examine it, and a majority of them became opposed to it—not because a great deal of pains and talent had not been taken with the measure; because now that we are about to form a new delegation, I do not think that we can send gentlemen of more talent and more knowledge of the business they have to perform than those who went before. If I vote for this resolution, when I return to my constituents and tell them that I voted for "union they will naturally ask what kind of a union we are to get, and I shall be unable to tell them;—last year I could give them the details, this year I can only say that the matter is to be arranged three thousand miles away, and if they ask me who the representatives of the people will have an opportunity of passing on it afterwards I can only tell them no such opportunity will be afforded, and that they will be bound by the arrangements which are made in England. I regret that my convictions compel me to differ from many whose opinions I value, and whose friendship I desire to maintain, but I must act conscientiously, and do what I believe to be for the best interests of the country. I must say I cannot understand those who say that persons who do not fall in with the idea of union are disloyal,—the people whom I represent are as loyal as any upon the face of the globe, and if any man had the hardihood to charge disloyalty upon them it would not be necessary to hurl back the imputation—it would rebound with greater force than that with which it came. Union I believe to be desirable when we are prepared for it, but at present the people are not prepared, and they do not understand how