

listened to me then, he would not have been ignorant of my views in regard to Intercolonial Union. I understood the commission to refer to outside influence. (Mr. Hatheway.—I alluded to a paper published in the County of Albert, and from his card in it I concluded that alton' he was in favor of Confederation, he was not in favor of this Scheme. What surprised me was, that, knowing that it was distinctly stated that the Scheme could not be altered by the dotting of an I, or the crossing of a T—any person could be in favor of Confederation.) If he read my card published in the *Eastern Advocate*, it is necessary for him to read it again. I made no such statement. I stated in my card that I was in favor of a Union of the North American Colonies based upon fair and equitable principles, and went on showing the benefits of uniformity in our tariffs and postal arrangements, which could be brought about by a Union. I did not say a word about this Scheme, for I held it derogatory for a member to commit himself to the details of an arrangement which only a few months before had been laid before him. I was at that time attending to my own business, and had no time to fully consider the merits of the Scheme; therefore, I did not explain that I was prepared to commit myself to every detail, but so far as I had examined the Scheme, I saw nothing objectionable in it. The Chief Commissioner has on two occasions alluded to the influence of the Government in respect to the election in the County of Albert. I say I do not feel myself in a position to acknowledge any favor from the Government; there was no expenditure of money came from outside of the County of Albert to influence the election there. The Banking influence was against this Scheme; the influence of men who make money out of poor people, who wished to retain their power of discounting notes, and securing money from the poverty of the country, helped to defeat Confederation. I was returned to represent the County of Albert without any influence being brought to bear either directly or indirectly; but there may be other constituencies in the Province which are not so pure, on which money influence may be brought to bear. To prove the fearful existence of bribery at elections in some places, arising probably from the fact of there being in a small Legislature so many prices and so few blanks, I have only to refer to the testimony of Mr. Allen, one of the representatives of York in 1857, now Attorney General. I presume matters may not have changed much, and it is therefore easy to conceive how Confederation was defeated in York.

MR. NEEDHAM.—What authority do you refer to?

MR. McCLELLAN.—Speech of Attorney General delivered in this House in 1857, in reply to Mr. Hatheway, then opposed to him. I referred to this the other day, when the people of Albert were charged by the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Works, of their elections being influenced by money of the wealthy, &c. Mr. Allen stated, among other things, "that the most unhappy deprecation of the franchise prevailed, not among the men who labored with their hands, but the most influential men in York would sell their votes at elections, and the evil had really become fearful. What is found at elections but the grossest frauds and corruptions, practiced by the wholesale purchase of votes. Come to this House and you find it little better."

MR. LEWIS.—I do not think there was

one dollar expended in the County of Albert to influence the votes on that occasion, neither was there any promise of preferment ever given in any shape or form. (Mr. Anglin.—Why was it then that a member of the Government was there at the time, and afterwards boasted that he had carried the County?) If he did say so, it was not the case; his presence in the County had no influence upon the election.

MR. CUDLIP.—In reference to the remarks made by the hon. member from the County of Albert, I feel bound to say that extraordinary efforts were put forth by the Government to carry this election. Suppose two candidates start even to run an election, they will both spend money; but if one has the support of the Government he has a prospective advantage, for there is always an indirect tendency to go with the strongest side. When my colleagues and myself were elected it was put forth that we were elected by the rabble. The hon. member for Albert said Confederation was defeated on account of the Banking influence. It is a strange thing that the men holding the money of the country can be the rabble.

DR. THOMSON.—I thought it was my duty as a British subject, with British feelings, to strive to retain our privileges from the grasp of parties who tried to sweep away the rights of our Province. At one time we were united with Nova Scotia, but were separated by the consent and direction of the British Government, because it was thought it would be conducive to our welfare. This proposed Union is not for the purpose of having one Legislature, but is a Federal Union where the dominant party will have power to tyrannise over us if they think proper. It is an old saying that we should "Give glory to God, honour to the King, and live honestly with all men." The Liberals have ~~not done~~ this, for they have taken all the glory to themselves, and have honored neither King, country, nor anything else. This country was not big enough for them, and they wanted to extend it, like the fable of the frog and the horse. The frog enlarged himself until he burst, and so it was with these delegates, they would so act in such a way as was commensurate with their means; this country was too small for them, and they must get up this big scheme; but the "hand writing was upon the wall," and their place knew them no more. If we went into this Confederation we would have to put up new buildings, and it would cost us as much to keep up this Central Parliament as it would be to keep a standing army of thirty thousand people. We would gain nothing by going into Confederation either directly or indirectly; we are in the habit of importing more dutiable goods than the Canada, more particularly Lower Canada; therefore, we would contribute to the general revenue about double the amount that they do. The delegates may have thought that it was a good move for us to enter this Union, but they did not view it from a right stand point, and they were over-ruled by the people of this Province. If there are any influences at work in England in regard to legislating for this Province, we should send a delegation home to counteract it; we must protect ourselves, for "self-preservation is the first law of nature." This delegation is not for the purpose of annoying others, but for the purpose of setting ourselves right before the people and Government of England; for oftentimes a small matter, if allowed to remain, will grow to something worse upon this ground I

would like to see this delegation. The same delegation that are to go to Halifax might as well be appointed to go to England, to save the expense of appointing two delegations. The expenses of this Scheme would have been enormous, inasmuch as we would have had to have kept up our own Legislature, and a union of all the Legislatures in Canada, and we give them the power to tax us as much as they please; if there was any necessity for this Union it would be better to have one Parliament for all; by this means we would save a great deal of expense. I believe, instead of this Union, we should try to get a Union with Britain, by getting a few members in the British Parliament; there they could do us some service; there should be a few members in the British Parliament for every Colony that is of British descent. If there is any change to be made in our Constitution we should have a two-third vote before we adopt it, and that vote should be given fairly; every man above twenty-one years of age should have a fair vote, let it be for Annexation or whatever it may be.

HON. MR. SMITH.—As I feel an anxious desire to close the Session as speedily as possible, I shall make a very short speech. I stated during the canvass at the election, that the delegates which discussed this Scheme of a Union of the North American Provinces was wholly unauthorised, and I am prepared to assert now in my place, that in my judgment their whole proceedings were entirely unauthorised. History will be searched in vain to find a parallel to this case. If it was necessary for the delegates appointed to discuss a Union of the Lower Provinces, to have legislative authority, how much more necessary was it to have authority to discuss this larger Union? I do not think another case can be found of a Government meeting in Conference and agreeing to a Scheme, making an organic change in the Constitution of a country. I think before they gave their consent to a Scheme, and pledged themselves to carry out that Scheme with all the influence their high position gave them, they should have first consulted the people. These delegates who assembled on Prince Edward Island for a particular purpose, abandoned their business and arrogated to themselves powers that did not legitimately belong to them, and undertook to alter the Institutions of the country and surrender the independence we have so long enjoyed. Is it not the duty of the Government to exercise their functions within the four corners of this Constitution? Is it not their duty to preserve inviolate the independence of the people? In my opinion these gentlemen transcended entirely their powers; they should not have gone; or if they went upon the invitation of the Governor General, they should have gone and listened to the proposition and returned, before pledging themselves to use all their power, with all the agency the Government could wield, to sustain this Scheme. How did this originate? Did not you hear in the early part of the canvass that it had emanated from the British Government? How fraudulent was that; nothing of the kind had taken place. It was concocted in Canada. I will call Mr. Galt to show how it originated. Did it originate in Canada for the benefit of the Maritime Provinces? Did it not originate from their own political necessities? I can prove it out of the mouth of Mr. Galt himself. He says: "The circumstances under which the Government found itself the last Session of Parlia-