

But, Sir, had the late Government succeeded in their plans, where would we be to-day? Why into Confederation, and not in the proud position which we now occupy? We might have been in the position that Nova Scotia is now placed in. This is one of the reasons why this Government stands so high in the estimation of the people. They know that on the important questions they can trust us. The hon. member has said that there was no political manliness in this Government. But, Sir, where was the political manliness of the late Government. In 1865 Confederation was a question then brought to their notice by the highest authority. Did they come down with a measure upon the subject, or a decisive expression of opinion? No! nothing of the kind. They had men in that party who were determined to carry it if they could. They knew also that the Hon. Mr. Whelan was a Confederate, and doubtless thought that his influence would secure a few votes in favour of the measure from this side of the House, and thus by obtaining a vote here and another there, they hoped to succeed in forcing the measure upon this country. But this question, I may state, will not be entertained by any hon. member from the one end of our party to the other.—The hon. the Leader of the Opposition, in referring to Education, made quite a circuit; but, lawyer like, took care to express no opinion of his own. I am surprised though that he never before made the discovery that he so strongly sympathised with the Catholics.