

to confide in us, would be looked upon as rebels if studied near. No fear of that. So long, said the hon. gentleman, as Great Britain shall allow us to remain in our present independent position, there will be no fear of our assuming, towards her, any thing like a disloyal or rebellious attitude; and our manifestation of our cordial regard for the priceless boon of Self-Government, which she has conferred upon us, and our determination to retain it undisturbed, as long as we shall be able to do so, will never be looked upon by her as a proof of disaffection; but, rather, as a comfortable evidence of our most just and grateful appreciation of that inestimable blessing. What, then, Canada late rebellion was, the House Government refused to grant her Responsible Official Government; and that late rebellion, her loyalty and affection, for the conferring upon her, under a free representative Constitution, the full control and management of her own revenue and affairs. Great Britain will know that the boon of Responsible Self-Government was the greatest which she could confer upon any of her Dependencies or Colonies; and that, which, bound them most strongly to her loyalty and affection; to her, and, as requested by the hon. gentleman, upon which she had conferred that privilege, as long as it constituted them in allegiance to her, and obedient to her laws, and desired to retain that form of Government to all its independent integrity, so long, he firmly believed, would she endeavor it, to be beyond the constitutional control, even of the Imperial power, either to suspend or withdraw that form of Government from such Colonies or Dependencies, or even to impair it. We had not obtained that form of Government by rebellion, but by an exercise of constitutional means; and, both as a account of the mode by which we had obtained it, and the happy manner in which, although even to the establishment of universal manhood suffrage—we had, secured its privilege into practice, we were entitled to the especial consideration of the House Government; and, he doubted not, we would receive it. Hon. members who advocated our being embraced by the Confederation Scheme had very plainly hinted, their belief that, if we did not, of our own accord, agree to enter it, the House Government would compel us to do so; but, he did not believe that the British Parliament would allow us to be coerced. Hon. members may refer to speeches made by me in Canada, and elsewhere, by my stating undue weight to the import of some isolated expressions which I then, perhaps, rather unguardedly admitted of to them; that I then appeared at the Quebec Scheme; but, at the same time, those hon. members well knew, in their hearts, that I was not for, and yet, yourself, Mr. Chairman, might, I think, testify enough in my behalf, for your will, doubtless, recollect that when I first gave, in New Brunswick, on my way home, from the Quebec Conference, I told you it would be impossible for Prince Edward Island to go into Confederation upon the terms of the Quebec Scheme, without a sacrifice of her independence, and of her best social, domestic interests; and that, therefore, I was decidedly opposed to the Island's being included in it. But, you granting that, as has been said, I changed my views concerning Confederation, after my return from Canada to Prince Edward Island, what will you say to that? If we are never to change our views concerning any measure which may be proposed, of what use is our debating upon it? In a Legislature, if members were never in possession to change their opinions, there would be no chance whatever of reform and change, would there, ever, be any progress? In Great Britain, a very reform, every modification of laws, every reform of abuses, which has been effected, by the House of Commons, has been brought about by a change of opinion, not infrequently, both with

out, as well as within, the walls of Parliament. It has been said, by some hon. members, that with our tariff lower than that of the Federation we would not be able to do so; but, in that case, we would become the resort of smugglers; but, I believe, if the people would submit to be governed by the opinion of mercantile men, and consent to the abolition of customs and import duties, and fully establish free-trade privileges, and have recourse to direct taxation in lieu of those duties, they would find the change a most beneficial one. It was also said by hon. members who advocated Confederation, that no action should be taken with respect to it, by the Assembly, until it should have been fully put before the people at the coming General Election. Well, we would all be glad, so to do; to have an opportunity of again appealing to the people. When we do so, they will certainly wish to know, who of the candidates for their suffrages, are in favor of Confederation, and who are opposed to it; and I am quite willing that "Confederation, or No Confederation" shall be the issue, to be submitted to the people for their determination; and the test of the fitness of candidates for election. As respects the amendment, said the hon. gentleman, if we vote for it, we shall vote for Confederation; and, very most judiciously, it concludes by saying that, in the opinion of this House no vote should be passed by the Legislature of this country in favor of Confederation until the people shall first have been afforded an opportunity of pronouncing their judgment on the question at a General Election. Now, as I do not wish to go into what I said last Session, I will be brief in any further remarks which I have to make touching the subject. As respects the Resolutions which have been submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, I will now merely observe that, and I have consulted concerning them, I would have advised the striking out of the middle one, and the retention of only the first and last. I know not what pressure has been brought to bear upon the Government, but I believe some has, and the effect has been the bringing down of the Resolutions in their present form. As they stand, however, I will vote for them. I certainly was, once, I must confess, in favor of a Federal Union of these Provinces, because I was of opinion that it would give us greater weight at the Colonial Office, where the influence of the large proprietors had always prevailed against us in the hindrance of any fair and equitable settlement of the Land Question. But now I am fully convinced that any advantage we might, on that score, derive from our confederating with the other Provinces, would be far overbalanced by the losses which it would, politically, commercially, and financially, directly bring upon us; and, therefore, with the qualifications which I have already made with respect to them, I am prepared unhesitatingly to vote for the Resolutions of the Hon. the Leader of the Government. I do not wish to say any thing harsh against those hon. members who differ with me on this question. If we went into the proposed Union, we would be at the mercy of those who do not think as we do on the subject of parliamentary representation. We have universal manhood suffrage and an elective Legislative Council; but they have neither. I think that, if we, in little Prince Edward Island, be left as we are, we shall be able to manage our own affairs quite as well as the people of Canada have managed theirs, and indeed, I believe a great deal better. We are told that Mr. Maynard, the Queen's Attorney in her Majesty's name, has proposed a scheme of Confederation, and, without exception, embraces all these Provinces, and, naturally, is carried into effect; and that, if we oppose ourselves to it, we must share of the worst of the fate which befell the late Confederation. I do not wish to say anything to our better advantage. Confed-