

wickers were less alive to the necessities of union, or less desirous of perpetrating connection with the mother country, than either Nova Scotia or Canada. It was impossible to shut our eyes to the events occurring in the neighboring States, and it is undeniable that unless we are united under the terms as agreed upon at Quebec, another union will be formed that will be found to be of an entirely different character, and under a different flag than that which we now recognize, and it becomes a question whether we prefer the good old flag we are now under to that of the United States. Firmly united under the bonds of the proposed Confederation, and backed by the support, influence and means of Great Britain, we can fear none; but alone, and undivided, we may fall victims at any moment. Apart from the great commercial advantages of the proposed Confederation, we rank still more highly—that which we believe is of still greater importance—that by delaying the Union we may risk and imperil the connection between these Provinces and the Mother Country. They have been told that Nova Scotia was opposed to Confederation, but this meeting and magnificent demonstration had given the lie to that assertion, and he hoped the time would not be remote when he would have the honor and privilege of addressing them not only as Nova Scotians, but as a united Confederation of British North America."

I think that after this that there can be very little doubt in the minds of any body, that these gentlemen go home with the intention of forcing upon the British Government the necessity for the Union being at once accomplished,—whether the Lower Provinces are willing or not. I cannot allow a remark of the hon. Prov. Secy., made the other day in reference to the people of Yarmouth, to pass unnoticed. He said they were favorably disposed towards American Institutions, and in fact insinuated that, with some other counties, they were disloyal in their sentiments.

Hon. PROV. SECY.—denied that he ever made such an assertion.

Mr. LOCKE—I so understood it, and I believe the hon. gentleman endeavored afterwards to explain. Now, sir, I maintain that there is not a more loyal people on the face of the globe than the people of Nova Scotia.

Shelburne was founded by Loyalists—and they could be outdone by none in their devotion to the British flag. The man who insinuated anything there about their loyalty, would find it a pretty hard place to stand in—and I believe the very purity of their loyalty would deter them from entering into this Scheme, judging from the previous history of Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a word as to the resolution on the table of the House. I will just read the preamble, and ask in what position would any man be placed who voted for it? He thereby admits that he is in favor of a Union of all the Provinces—and the only reason why he does not do so now, is because "it is at present impracticable."

I do not say that the Prov. Secy. in wording that resolution had any design to entrap gentlemen into committing themselves upon this ques-

tion, but I consider it to be the duty of every man opposed to Confederation to vote against it.

That is the course I intend to take, and I would say to the Government, as Henry Clay said to John Randolph, "go home to your Constituents, who sent you here, and see whether they approve of the course you have taken."

It was useless attempting to make the Canadian Delegates or the British people believe that the question of Confederation was received with any favor in this country.

It was virtually dead. Like the Church at Ephesus, it had a name to live for, and was yet dead. Let the resolution, then, remain a dead letter upon the table of the House, and let nothing more be said about it until the time shall arrive when the people of this country declare themselves in favor of a scheme which goes to alter the Constitution, under which they are now prospering and living contentedly.

Remarks of Mr. Killam.

Mr. KILLAM said—I shall not delay the house long with my expression of opinion on the subject under consideration. It has been given as an argument in favour of Confederation, that leading men in this Legislature have been in favour of it, and have spoken often in respect to it. Now I have been a member of this house for many years, and have heard what remarks have been made, but I am not aware that any large number of members, or of the people, thought much about the subject. The Legislature took no interest in the question, and the people felt the same way. No one believed that anything practical would grow out of the discussion—the whole thing was a mere pleasant theory in which some gentlemen liked to indulge when they had nothing else to talk about.

A great deal of alarm exists all through the Province on this subject of Confederation. It appeared to be the opinion of every man you met that no good could come of it, and this feeling appeared to be the spontaneous feeling of the people, without any effort having been made by those who are called political leaders to excite it. As regards the resolution on the table, I will say that I can scarcely imagine how any person could be found within those walls to favor a Union of the Lower Provinces. There can be no advantage to us in mixing up our local interests with those of the other Maritime Provinces. I have yet to hear any argument in favour of this smaller Union. Then where is the necessity for any further delegation on the subject, if no practical result is to follow.

There has been a great deal said about the advantages a union with Canada would confer upon us, but I think that the effect would be to restrict and hamper our commercial operations. Nova Scotia wants the whole world for a market—she wants free communication with the great producing country, the United States, which furnishes us with luxuries and necessities which we have not got. We want our carrying trade, upon which we so largely depend, to be unrestricted in its extent. All this is necessary to our prosperity; but adopt this confederation scheme, and we will hedge ourselves in as it were, and shut ourselves out from the markets that are now open to us. We were in