

in this house, and many of them have been too eloquently descanted upon by the hon. member for Richmond to require that I should refer to them at length.

Whatever my opinions on this great subject were a year ago, occurrences transpiring in the interim, and events which mark the present as a time for action rather than words to be our duty, leave no room for doubt in my mind as to what this House owe to the country.—The repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty is no longer a matter of doubt, as it was when we last sat here. The cause of its repeal is ominous of a state of things and of a feeling which should make us active for Union. It was not for advantage to themselves, because there was none, that the United States determined this treaty; but, as is well known, to evince the hostility that the great majority of the people of that country entertain toward us as British subjects, and to injure and embarrass us in the channels of our trade. The position of these Provinces could not but be regarded as humiliating, when obliged to send delegates, in detached parties to Washington, to beseech the continuance of that treaty. Severed, we are obliged to apply to foreign and hostile countries for leave to trade and interchange articles of commerce with them, while if united as proposed, we could cultivate and have within ourselves all these resources. Since we last met here, the British Government have declared and given most unequivocally to us their policy and advice on this subject. In the despatch from the Colonial Secretary of the 24th June last, we find the following expression of that policy:

"You will at the same time express the strong and deliberate opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it is an object much to be desired that all the British North American Colonies should agree to unite in one Government. In the territorial extent of Canada, and in the maritime and commercial enterprise of the Lower Provinces, Her Majesty's Government see the elements of power, which only require to be combined in order to secure for these Provinces, which shall possess them all, a place among the most considerable communities of the world. In the spirit of loyalty to the British Crown, of attachment to British connection, and of love for British institutions, by which all these Provinces are animated alike, Her Majesty's Government recognize the bond by which all may be combined under one Government. Such an union seems to Her Majesty's Government to commend itself to the Provinces on many grounds of moral and material advantages,—as giving a prospect of improved administration and increased prosperity."

Again in a despatch from Mr. Cardwell of 26th Sep., 1855, relating to the appointment of our present Lieutenant Governor, and in the appointment of this distinguished officer we observe in the choice made, which affords all Nova Scotians connected with that appointment just pride, and in other circumstances the desire of the Home Government for this Union, spoken in a most significant manner. In this despatch I find the following:

But as he, (Sir R. MacDonnell,) has been appointed to Hong Kong, expressly on the ground that the declared policy of Her Majesty's Government will, if successful, lead to the abolition of the office of Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, it would be evidently inconsistent with that policy to appoint in his place another Lieutenant Governor in the ordinary way.

Here we have the policy of the British Government plainly declared. There may be gen-

tlemen in this house, desirous of frustrating that policy, but I will not be found among them. I consider it our bolder duty to acquiesce in the wishes of those to whom we look for protection, who, during the past year, has expended in our defence an amount not exceeded by our entire revenue. The Quebec scheme being to a certain extent abandoned, the only question remaining is, to what tribunal can we appeal for a settlement of the terms of Union? I think that the proposal made by the hon. member for Richmond to refer the question to the arbitration of the Colonial office or of some other tribunal in the mother country would afford us a guarantee of our rights, and this proposition emanating from us must entitle us to peculiar consideration by any such tribunal. I did not rise to address the house at any length, but I desired to take the first opportunity of expressing these views.

I trust gentlemen will not hesitate to admit it if they experience a change of opinion on this great question. Besides the events which have occurred within the last twelve-month, the question being of itself of such magnitude, and contemplating changes so great in our situation and constitution, is one which would naturally be looked upon with caution at first, and it is not inconsistent that these gentlemen should, after due examination, if it be found to alter their views act on this convictions. In this connection, I may read the following from Mr. Cardwell's despatch, already referred to:

"I am aware that this project, so novel as well as so important, has not been at once accepted in Nova Scotia with that cordiality which has marked its acceptance by the Legislature of Canada; but Her Majesty's Government trust, that after a full and careful examination of the subject in all its bearings, the Maritime Provinces will perceive the great advantages which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the proposed union is calculated to confer upon them all."

I feel it to my duty to support the proposition for such a union of these Provinces as will be found to be based on principles of equity and justice. I care not how much my personal position may suffer in taking this stand, this is the duty I owe to the country; and every member who regards the events which are transpiring among us should seize the opportunity offered if the proposition made be accepted.

MR. S. CAMPBELL.—If a gentleman, speaking with his brief before him, feels inadequate to the occasion, I, coming here unprepared for the debate, must have some excuse for the crudeness of my observations. This question is one of the deepest moment to the people of this country and to this legislature, and I would not be worthy of a seat within these walls if I were not prepared on the instant to express my sentiments upon a matter so pregnant with weal or woe to the province. I listened with interest and pleasure to the hon. member for Richmond, because I felt that he was sincere in his observations,—I will not attribute any unworthy motives for the course which he has taken, but notwithstanding that I give him credit for candor and sincerity, I am not prepared to acquiesce in the result at which he has arrived until the people express themselves in a different tone and manner from those in which they have been expressing themselves

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