the courage but, perhaps, it is necessary that they should break. If the people wait for Confederation at the next election, well and good; but I would have nothing to do with it at present. We are not offered anything to induce us to go into the Union. We would get nigger nuts per head, and never be heard. All the Colonies are progressing, and why should we sell this Island to follow. We need not, nor do I see, cause fear play. If we go into the Union and I will, therefore, support the Resolutions proposed by the Hon. the Leader of the Government.

Mr. HOWLAN: It is very amusing to listen to the Confederoliists. They are so in favour of Confederation on the terms of the Quebec report at all—but that. We are to propose our own terms—to say what we will do and what we will not do—but hear the Resolution which they introduced yesterday:

"Resolved, That the Report of the Conference of Delegates from the British North American Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec, in October last, taken as a whole, sanctions the principles of a Union the basis of a Federal Union, which this House considers just to the several Provinces and Colonies."

Hon. Mr. WHELAN: That is not fair.

Mr. HOWLAN: It is quite fair; I have listened to the speech of the hon. member (Hon. Mr. Whelan) attentively, and I perceive that his views have undergone a change since last year. It is very gratifying to know that he has seen the error of his ways. The advocates of Union desire something more this year than we would get by the Quebec Scheme. Now, suppose that a change has taken place, and no basis is laid down with regard to the financial part of the Scheme, what would our position, or what would our influence be? I might refer to Rhode Island, but that is an old story now. It would be said, "Who are you that attempt to raise your head? A little isolated place like Prince Edward Island attempting to raise your voice!" Some say now, "What? Do you suppose that little Prince Edward Island will be allowed to stand in the way of the magnificent Union?" Then, why ask us to say yes or no? Why all have discussing the question when members are so anxious to get home. It is said that we are only 80,000 people—that we are not able to protect ourselves—and, therefore we must go into the Union. And, say some hon. members, "If you do not go into the Union the Army and Navy of Great Britain will not protect you;" but I have higher authority for stating that the Army and Navy of Great Britain will protect us. Mr. Gladstone says that the Imperial Government pledges itself to protect to the utmost of its power, every British subject in British North America. (Cries of—No! No!) I say Mr. Gladstone says so; and he is a member of the House of Commons, and quite as good a statesman as any of the hon. members who say "No." Is not this the sufficient authority for us to say that the British Government will protect us? Is any class in this Island tired of our Constitution? There is nothing respecting which we have not the right to petition, or which we have not the right to ask for, why then should we be forced to give up our Constitution? I see gentlemen here who are older than my father, and who say we must go into Confederation. If the ruling statesmen of Canada and Nova Scotia say that we must unite, is that any reason why we should do so? If that is the right and privilege of British subjects, I am sorry, I am one; but I believe that though I live on this little Island, I have as much liberty as if I lived in London; and I feel proud that the British Government is composed of men who pledge themselves to protect us with the whole resources of the Empire. We are now told that we must unite—that the British Fleet will be away from the bay unless we join Confederation—but I remember that, Mr. Speaker (Hon. Mr. Whelan) connected very different views a few years ago. I do not wish to misconstrue the hon. member's sentiments—far from it—but there appears to be a sort of hallucination in about the subject, for otherwise, his mind and those of some other hon. members, is difficult to account for the change which their views have undergone concerning it. We are told that, whether we adopt the Quebec Report or not, we must confederate upon some terms; but I consider that we have just as much right to call upon the other Colonies to confederate as they have to call upon us. It is said that if Nova Scotia and New Brunswick go into the Union, we also must, for the purpose of mutual defence; but we have already placed the whole Revenue of the Colony at the disposal of the Government for putting the Island in a state of defence, and we are willing to pay our proportion for the general defence of the Colonies; but why should we be forced into Confederation against our will? If, after a general election, there should be a majority in favour of Confederation, the case would be different; but to say that we must unite with Canada is absurd. If we were considered fit to govern ourselves, and if we have conducted the business of Colony properly for fifteen years, it does not appear reasonable to suppose that the British Government will now deprive us of our Constitution. I do not think the people of this Island are so much afraid of Confederation; but they object to being forced into it. We have, at present, as much right to tax ourselves as Canada has; but, in the event of Confederation, we will be stand in the same relative position to the other Colonies as Rhode Island does to the rest of the American Union. That Island has the same representation in the United States Senate as New York. Rhode Island is the smallest part of the American Union, and I suppose we would remain for a long time the smallest part of British Americas; still, we have shown a disposition to do what we can to defend ourselves, and have thereby shown that we are not disloyal, but we wish to let it be seen that Confederation is not as applicable to us as to other portions of British America, and that, therefore, we are not disposed to go into a Union on the basis of the Quebec Report.

Progress reported, and House adjourned at 10 minutes to 12.

TUESDAY, 8th May, 1866.

House in Committee of the whole on Despatches, Mr. JOHN YEO in the Chair.

Mr. CONROY. Sir, I have very little to say in addition to what I said upon the question last Session. I am decidedly opposed to Confederation. I am quite satisfied to remain as we are, and to retain the management of our own affairs. I have considered the question with all the ability and attention I could bring to bear upon it, and I have failed to discover any advantage which would accrue to us through a Federal Union with Canada. But what! I am persuaded that we should reap no advantages from it. I am convinced that, in almost every particular, it would be highly injurious. I not absolutely ruinous to us. According to the Quebec Scheme, we would have to give up our revenue, however great it may be, in exchange for £80,000 or £40,000 per annum; and we would have to surrender to strangers the power in this Island of dealing for ourselves and of supplying our wants. We would be allowed to retain our local legislature, but of what service would the

[illegible] legislature be in, without the power to dispose of our revenue, for our own immediate benefit? A great part of the revenue of £80,000 or £40,000 a year would be required to keep up the machine, paraphernalia of a local Government and local Legislature. All that was said last Session upon the subject, was merely a repetition of what was urged on the Union last Session. I have yet heard nothing now to advance against it; and I will, therefore, say the above but that I heartily support the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, although I must admit I see nothing objectionable in the Resolution submitted, in addendum, by my hon. friend the member for St. Peter's (Mr. Whelan).

Hon. COL. GRAY apologised for his absence from the House for the last two or three days, which, he explained, had been occasioned by indispositions. The Resolutions which had been submitted the hon. the Leader of the Government, he presumed, he had before him in the Legislative Summary; but he was not exactly aware of the purport of the amendment which, it seemed, had been submitted thereto. He would, therefore, feel obliged by the Chairman's reading it for his information.

The Chairman having, in compliance with the request of the hon. and gallant Colonel, read the amendment submitted by the Hon. Mr. Whelan, he—the Hon. Col. Gray spoke as follows: I will say I am glad that I have now, at my place, an opportunity to give my opinion upon the Resolutions submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government. It appears to me that the House is saying,—as, by the words of the second of those Resolutions, they are made to do—"That they cannot admit that a Federal Union of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could ever be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of the people of this Island;" are in a most arrogant, and almost impious manner, assuming to themselves two of the grand attributes of the Deity—prescience and omniscience! Assuredly I would be very sorry to have my name, as a supporter of such a Resolution, bedoided for transmission to posterity. I do not look for posthumous fame; and I regard popular applause as little, or, perhaps, as most public men; but I regard my own conscience, and nothing, it must, will ever induce me to give my sanction or countenance to any act, project, or declaration, which, through a cool and dispassionate exercise of my judgment, I cannot conscientiously approve. I regard my own conscience much more than any thoughts of future fame or prospect of immediate popular applause. As a parliamentary representative of the people, I endeavour to act in accordance with its dictates. On every public question which comes before this Assembly, I claim the right to exercise my conscientious judgment, independently of all party connexions or considerations; and that right I not only, most willingly accede to every other member of the House, but I most absolutely desire that, on every occasion, whatever the nature of the question at issue may be, he may freely exercise it. The hon. member from Cascumpeque (Mr. Conroy) has very properly said, if I understood him aright, that nothing more than was enunciated upon the question of Federal Union, in the last Session, could now be advanced concerning it. In the face of the Resolutions against the Union, agreed to by the majority of this hon. House, I do so, I, in said, "That this House disagrees to the recommendations of the Quebec Convention; and, on the part of Prince Edward Island, emphatically declines Union, which, after serious and careful consideration, it believes would prove politically, commercially, and financially disastrous to the rights and interests of the people." This, surely, was language strong enough; and its emphatic affirmance now, without the above stored and censurable assumption of the Divine attributes of prescience and omniscience, ought to have fully satisfied the opponents of Confederation in this House. On my return from Canada in 1864, I publicly declared that, in my opinion, simple justice to the people demanded that no [illegible] Legislature should be in any manner, or to any extent, [illegible] to take, either for or against the proposed Union, until after they should have had an opportunity to pronounce on it at the hustings. This was my opinion then, and it is still my opinion [illegible] I, therefore, hold that this House is not in a position to pronounce constitutionally concerning the matter. Before the people are properly enlightened upon the question in all its features, it is not for us to determine. But any individual opinions that they have not yet, through the labors of any temporary and partial instructors, been enabled to arrive at a full and understanding of it, to which, before they can wisely pronounce, it is a necessity they should attain. To such a subject as never before, have submitted to their consideration; no question so likely to arouse their prejudices, and, with reference to which, there has been to great a probability of hitherto pitfalls on their party, as ever before been proponded to them for solution. They are called upon to deal with a matter of such gravity and importance as may, according to their decision concerning it, either settle or unsettle that whole balance of our Constitution; and, therefore, it seems to me, to be absolutely necessary that, before they form a final judgment upon it, they should be enabled to understand the measure in all its bearings, and have ability to look upon it with an enlarged and comprehensive view. I do not see, however, that any remarks made in this House, at the time, bear in any way upon the case of the question, prior to as it presents itself—uninstructed, as we are, by our constituents with regard to it, we can with any regard to constitutional propriety, take action upon it. Such being my view of the present state of the question, it is only in consequence of the unexplained features of the Resolutions which have been submitted by the Hon. the Leader of the Government, and which I apprehend will be sustained and carried by a majority of the House, that I have risen to offer my remarks upon the subject. The Resolution which asserts that "this House cannot admit that a Federal Union of the North American Provinces and Colonies, which would include Prince Edward Island, could ever be accomplished upon terms that would prove advantageous to the interests and well-being of the people of this Island;" seems to me, if taken either for or against the Resolution, bedoided for transmission to posterity. I do not look for posthumous fame; and I regard popular applause as little, or, perhaps, as most public men; but I regard my own conscience, and nothing, it must, will ever induce me to give my sanction or countenance to any act, project, or declaration, which, through a cool and dispassionate exercise of my judgment, I cannot conscientiously approve. I regard my own conscience much more than any thoughts of future fame or prospect of immediate popular applause. As a parliamentary representative of the people, I endeavour to act in accordance with its dictates. 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