

and power he possessed to carry out his object in defiance of the people. Holding the sentiments he did, there was great room to fear, that our rights and liberties were endangered; and under such circumstances it was time gentlemen sitting around these benches, should put the house in order. It should be recollected that the leader of the government had great powers in his hands—he could control the public patronage—he had command of the public funds. He might be induced to use all influences to promote a scheme of which he was so enthusiastic an advocate. It would be well for gentlemen to consider these things before it was too late. He did not intend to follow the hon. Provincial Secretary after the lengthy reply of the hon. member for Guysbro, and because a more suitable opportunity would offer to answer him. But he must denounce the assertion made for a purpose, that any large number of the people favored the scheme of the Quebec Conference. Such an assertion from any reliable source might do much harm. He did not, however, think any statements of the hon. member were entitled to much credit. There were few public men in the country who stood in a more unenviable position as respects their unreliability than the hon. Provincial Secretary.

He thought he was done with the hon. member for Halifax, but he found it was not the case; that hon. gentleman with his usual appropriateness of illustration, had referred to the demonstration given in honour of Shakespeare last spring, which was as far from the present case, as the hon. member himself was from the moon. It was true the House did adjourn, but it was more in compliment to the occasion, than to any living individual. What analogy was there between the two cases—between Shakespeare and the Delegates? Shakespeare wrote several works of fiction and these have been handed down to the present day. But he (Mr. M.) might be wrong—perhaps he was unable to appreciate the great acuteness of the hon. member. There might be some point in the comparison. That the delegates dealt largely in fiction will not be denied, and if they put their claim to a demonstration on this ground he could understand them. When the records were examined it would be found that the works of fiction of some of these gentlemen were numerous indeed. If this would entitle them to such an ovation as had been accorded to the great dramatist, let it be given to them, but, as in his case, he would prefer it would be postponed till they were 300 years dead.

Mr. Miller concluded by saying that as the hon. Provincial Secretary had stated that the Volunteers were not to take any part in the demonstration of that evening his object was gained and it was unnecessary to move any resolution on the subject.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL said if he had ever witnessed a tempest in a teapot, it was during that afternoon. He could, however, easily understand how the gentlemen opposite would wish to make a demonstration which might have some effect across the water. They had stated that nine-tenths of the people were opposed to Confederation,

and ought now to be satisfied. He doubted, however, the worth of the mere assertions they had made, and the value that would be put upon them in the mother country. It was obvious that if gentlemen had not some covert object in view, the whole subject would have been settled in five minutes. If anyone had, at the outset, asked the question, whether the volunteers were to take part in the intended demonstration, he would have got an answer immediately. It was useless for gentlemen to try and persuade the House that actually nine-tenths of the people were opposed to Confederation. Only 3000 persons came before the House, stating that they were opposed to Confederation. He knew that a large number of the petitioners were induced to sign the petitions, through false representations that were made to them. Here Mr. Henry went on to refer to the fact that when the delegates were in Canada, the volunteers, on several occasions, took part in the celebration. He thought that some parties in this country had attempted to mix up the question of Union with party considerations ever since the celebrated speech at Truro. It was party influences that originated the petitions that were got up on this question. What he desired, was that the people should have every opportunity of discussing the question in all its bearings.

The matter then dropped, and the House adjourned over Good Friday until Saturday, at 11 o'clock.

SATURDAY, April 15.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

The House of Assembly met this morning at 11 o'clock, and the Provincial Secretary immediately moved a resolution to adjourn until Monday next. He said:—I need not say that this House has been deeply shocked by the intelligence which has just been received of the death of President Lincoln. Both branches of the Legislature having been on Thursday last informed that His Excellency would come down at 3 o'clock for the purpose of assenting to several Bills which have passed, I felt it my duty, proposing as we do, to adjourn this House, to put myself in communication with His Excellency who entirely concurs in the appropriateness of this House marking its sympathy with the people of the United States, who have thus lost their Chief Magistrate, and their deep abhorrence of the crime by which he has been removed. The House is aware that when exactly four years ago this day the first intelligence reached this country of the commencement of hostilities in the American Republic, this House placed on record its sentiments by the following resolution:—

Resolved unanimously that the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia have heard with deep regret of the outbreak of civil war in the United States, that this House, without expressing any opinion upon the points in controversy between the contending parties sincerely lament that those who speak their language, and share their civilization should be shedding each other's blood, and offer up their prayers to the Father of the Universe for the speedy restoration of peace."

This resolution sufficiently marked the feelings with which this House viewed the beginning of hostilities which have so long and so terribly distracted the neighboring republic. It is not to be denied that as that struggle ad-