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"The hon. member who last spoke, has," I understood, declared his views on the Union scheme at a public meeting; and, after expressing himself as decidedly opposed to it, I am astonished that he, as a member of the Government, should give his assent to the appointment of a gentleman to be one of his colleagues, who has announced himself to be a "red-hot Unionist." I contend that it was the duty of the Government to declare their principles, and then appeal to the people at once, and not to wait until the House was in Session some time before they agreed upon their policy—then perhaps only to put off the question." In Canada they deemed the matter of such importance as to grapple with it at the very opening of the Session. If we should delay giving a decision upon the question here until the House does so, it will not be treating the Canadian party, who are desirous to have the measure decided immediately, in due effect.

"It was the duty of the Government, instead of acting as they have done, to have stood at the leading public opinion, and to have taken issue to the polls. There were very good reasons for a Government to postpone, firstly, without without advancing their views on questions of the greatest importance to the country. There is another subject requiring a share of public attention—a Union of a different description to that under consideration, which has been passed over in silence in His Excellency's speech. It alludes to the Teden Union; and I am partly disposed to censure the Government for not debarring their sentiments in reference to this organization, as its principles may have to be tested at the next general election. But I will not enter into that subject now. The Government of New Brunswick have taken decided action on the question of Union; Hop Mr. Tilley has declared himself in its favor and appealed to the people. If Confederation be rejected in that Province at the polls, will he resign office? No, Mr. Chairman, I believe he has too much principle to attempt anything so unconstitutional. Allusion has also been made to Nova Scotia; but from what I know of the gentleman who is leader of the Government there, I think it is not at all probable that he will shrink the question. It will come up in the Legislature, and if he is unable to carry it, I believe he will appeal to the people. Several members of the Government of New Ireland have expressed sentiments at public meetings adverse to the Union, but the Hon. C. Secretary and the Hon. Solicitor General, in favor of the measure, I suppose their colleagues have refrained from expressing so opinion in the Address lest these gentlemen should be offended. But they are not so careful about wounding the feelings of some of their friends. The Hon Attorney General has been wedged out of the Executive Council on a difference connected with this question, and an effort made, at his expense, to smooth down matters for the return of the late leader of the Government to his former position."

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Mr. Chairman, I am of opinion that the occasion of the hon. member's remarks must have been spared. I would have preferred to have taken so part to this discussion, and to have corrected and misrepresented, I cannot be sure. Perhaps the hon. member may not be acquainted with the merits of the case to which he alluded. Let me, then, state that the difference between as hon gentlemen, not a member of this House, and myself, was unconnected with the question of a Union of the Colonies. It was quite a different matter altogether. If the hon member who has introduced this unpleasant subject would refer to the files of some of the public journals, he would find the reasons which I assigned for resigning my position as president of the Executive Council and as a member thereof. The case had nothing to do with a Union of the Colonies. It might have occurred in any other circumstances. It affected myself personally, and also the interests and honor

the House of Assembly. The views of the Government on the subject of the proposed Union of the Colonies have been explained to the House by the Hon. the Attorney-General, and the Government have endeavored to secure the assent of the House to the resolution of the House as regards to the appointment of delegates on the subject of a Union of the Maritime Provinces, and also at a later date on the revision of His Excellency the Governor-General, that delegates were appointed to consider the broader question of a Union of the whole of the Province. This is a matter calculated to affect the interests of every subject in British America irrespective of party, and for fairer and consequently to attract the most able and able men to the question, these members of the Government, three members of the Opposition, and one independent member of the House were appointed to proceed to Quebec as delegates. This delegation was nominated on precisely the same grounds as the first was appointed. When the report came from Canada for this Colony to send delegates to consider the question of a Union of the whole of the Province, surely it was not necessary to call the Legislature together to consider the propriety of acceding to the request if this were the case of what was would the Executive but it would, indeed, be a do-nothing Government. There was no occasion to seek new powers from the Legislature, the two delegations were for precisely the same purpose, and the subject was to be considered by a grand committee of the House, and was for settling the question of the Union of the Province, and for combining the same Province into a confederation which would form a state as large as the entire Continent or Europe. If I had thought that this subject was to have been made a Government question, had I so much love, politically speaking, for the hon. leader of the Opposition, or for the hon. gentleman on his right, the member for St. Peter's, as well as another hon. gentleman from the other end of the building who has generally been opposed to my views—that I should have pointed them on this delegation? My friendship for them on political grounds was not so great that I would have named their appointment had I thought that the subject which the delegation met to consider was to be a question on which an effort would be made to defeat the Government. I understood, however, the opposition in proceeding was a question of political expediency, and that the Hon. the Attorney-General, it appears to me, believe, however, that there is not a member of this House who does not appreciate and approve of the motives which influenced the choice. But Sir, I have recently learned that there are three great commandments for politicians—of which I was entirely ignorant when I entered political life. The first of these is for the politician to take good care of himself and his pocket; the second is to crush his enemy; and the third is to attend to the good of the country. And, Sir, I fear that the third is sometimes wholly forgotten in the zeal to carry out the other two." (Applause.) Acting on these rules, therefore, it is fair game for the hon. leader of the Opposition to endeavor to trip up the Government on any pretence whatever. I think, however, it would have been more prudent in him to have refrained from bringing this question into the House, and to have allowed the delegates to be appointed without his interference. The delegates appointed were required to report to the Legislature, which I as their chairman am prepared to do; but at this stage of the proceedings, until this Report can be laid before the House, it is premature to discuss this subject. At Quebec I expressed the opinion that this was a question for the people to decide; when I returned here, however, I found the statement had gone forth like many more which were untrue—that this question was to be carried without an appeal to the people. I immediately wrote a letter to the different newspapers in the Colony stating some of my views on the subject, and assuring the people that the measure could not be sanctioned without an appeal to them. The hon. member has referred to the question pursued by the Government of Nova Scotia, and the question of the adoption of the plan which I thought was ought to follow out in this Colony. I understand it is the intention of the Government of Nova Scotia to submit the Report of the delegates to the House of Assembly, and if but a majority of that body were in favour of the scheme, that then there would be an appeal to the people. I have not consulted with the members of our Government—nor could it be expected that I should—as to what