federation, that, in the event of the Federation taking place, and Canada being invaded by Fenian marauders or any other enemy, we would be called upon to send up our Militia or Volunteers to assist the Canadians to defend themselves. What probability, he asked, was there that a Province which, in obedience to a call to arms, could, within 24 hours, have an army of 150,000 well disciplined men, fully equipped, and ready to encounter whatever foe might venture to assail them, and which, besides, had at its disposal a surplus revenue of one million dollars, should stand in need of any direct aid, either of men or money from Prince Edward Island? Bankrupt Canada!—The idea was most preposterous. The hon. member then significantly hinted to the Committee the very great probability that their determination to remain out of the Union, in opposition to the wishes of the Home Government, might prove a cause of such irritation as they might, when too late, have reason to repent their having persisted. As a proof that he had never contemplated the forcing of the Quebec Scheme upon the people against their will, he stated that after his return from Canada, in 1864, he had, at a public meeting of his constituents, at Belfast, told them that the question of Confederation, so far as it was intended to apply to Prince Edward Island, was one for the people—and for the people alone—to decide. The Delegates had drawn up a Report embracing a scheme of Union; but the people were at perfect liberty to accept or reject it as they themselves should think best. Because I, as one of the Island Delegates, assented to that Scheme I have been accused of having sold my country, and been stigmatized by the name of traitor. Even a clergyman—I will not say of what denomination—has declared that he had been told that I had been bribed to give my assent to that Scheme. When that rather amusing charge was brought against me, it was brought equally against the other Delegates from Prince Edward Island, for we all assented to the Quebec Report, and the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Colon), who was one of us, when—after the Conference had concluded—publicly speaking of the Report, at the Dejeuner, at Ottawa, said:—He thought they (the Delegates) had reason to congratulate themselves upon the labours of the Conference. That thirty-three men, representing the various political opinions of six different Provinces, could have assembled so and amalgamated their opinions as to agree upon a Constitution suited for that great Confederation, was something, he believed, such as the world had never seen before, and showed that the Delegates were worthy of the position they held. He said this, although there was no man more disposed than himself with respect to some parts of that constitution; *but, by mutual concessions, they had arrived at a result which they could all agree in supporting and submitting to the people; for he held that it must be submitted to the people. They could not force it on the people; they must endeavour to show them that it was for their benefit, and thus induce them to accept it.*" The foul charge of his having been bribed to agree to the Report—a Report which was agreed to by all the Delegates—must apply equally to all the other Island Delegates; but a charge so scandalous was one which they wish him, would trample under foot. By a part of the Island press, it had been said that he and his brother Delegates who were advocates of the complete Federation of these Provinces were prepared to thrust down the throats of the people. He, on the contrary—and he wished it to go forth to the public—took the very earliest opportunity which presented itself, to publish in the papers that, in his opinion, it would be most unjust to the people to take any action with respect to the Quebec Scheme, until it should have been fairly put to them at the Hustings. The people have not had it before them, and therefore, what we may say now can be but of little avail. This is the sole opinion of the House; and, at the ensuing Dominion Election, every candidate for the suffrages of the people will have an opportunity of declaring his sentiments concerning the Confederation Scheme; and such as shall be elected will take their seats in the Assembly duly instructed how they are to vote concerning it. If I be again returned to the House, I shall, according to the instructions I may be entrusted, know how to comport myself with respect to that important question. As to the appointment of Delegates to a London Convention, I do not see how Hon. Mr. Tenney, the Lieutenant Governor, on the question now pending, would dare to make such an appointment. Before any act of this kind can be constitutionally taken, there must be an appeal to the people; and that appeal must be first responded to by an approval of Confederation would. I believe there are members on the floor of the House who, although adverse to the terms of the Quebec Scheme, would yet willingly vote for a reconsideration of it. I believe the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition is not opposed to a Federal Union of all the Provinces; but he thinks better could that those offered to us by the Quebec Scheme. He wants the very best terms which it may be possible for us to obtain; and so do I. The opposition to the Quebec Scheme is based upon his conviction that the terms which it accords us are not sufficiently favorable to our interests.—I am not much in the habit of looking to members in opposition for amendments to Resolutions submitted from this side of the House. I was concerned to support the Conservative party; and, in good faith, I have fought with them, and done my duty in every conflict which they have had with the Opposition. In the support of any particular policy or measure to which the Conservatives have been pledged, I have never flinched.... This, however, is the last Session of this House, and with it my immediate connection with the Conservatives will cease. At the ensuing General Election, if I offer myself again as a Candidate for a seat in the Assembly, I will not do so either as a Conservative or as a Liberal; and, if elected, I will not pledge myself to support either party. I will reserve to myself the privilege of judging for myself, independently of all party considerations. The present question is not a Government question; but a free and open one; and, therefore, in voting, as I shall do, for the amendment submitted by a member of the Opposition—the hon. member for St. Peter's (Hon. Mr. Whelan)—I shall not be forsaking my party.... The good sense and moderation of that amendment, especially when contrasted with the assumption, at once arrogant and fatuous, of the Resolutions to which it is opposed, so recommend it to my judgment and sense of propriety, that I can have no hesitation in voting for it. In speaking against the Resolution submitted by the Hon. Premier, I have done so on account of their binding character. As to the Resolution of amendment, I do not see how any member, on either side of the House, whatever his opinions concerning the Quebec Scheme may be, can object to it. But, by the other, we are called upon to exclude ourselves for ever from a Confederation which, in all probability, is destined to become one of the greatest nations on the earth.—What! are we going to ostracize ourselves from the community of our Sister Provinces? Are we going to stand alone to become the resort of smugglers and a nest of homes in the skirts of the Confederation? Do we suppose that Her Majesty's Government will allow such a political solecism? Will not our declared hostility to any scheme of Union, which will include Prince Edward Island, in opposition to the well considered and truly paternal desire of Her Government of Great Britain, be very likely so far to exasperate them, as to cause them to legislate us into the Confederation even against our will? As to the Hon. the Leader of the Government, I have the highest respect for him, both politically and socially; and although voting against the Resolutions submitted by him, I am not voting against the Government of which he is the Leader. The Confederation question is not a Government one (Hon. Mr. Colon: "I should be, though!") I will not say what the question might or might not have been were it a Government question. A Government question, however, it could not have been made most emphatically without an appeal to the people. But I will ask, here, the hon. the Leader of the Government, can tell that his view of what constitutes an, at present, opposed to Confederation, even although he may have had reason to believe they were so at the time of the last Session, whether, if he had, at that time, ascertained that there had existed more than twelve members of the House, who were strongly opposed to Confederation, he would, in the first place, have ventured to make it a Government question? Secondly, if he had ascertained that there had existed more than twelve members who were strongly opposed to Confederation, he would, in the first place, have ventured to make it a Government question? The great objection has been to the terms offered to us by the Quebec Scheme; but, for I believe, generally, the Resolutions which have been submitted to us have, in regard to the very point in the subject, the effect of, in fact, designing the possibility of our obtaining better terms, if, through a constitutional channel, it should be found that, though we may be willing to accept the Resolutions, the Confederation with the Sister Provinces, on the terms offered, is desirable to a majority of our people, we may not vote in favor of those Resolutions, leaving it to be understood that, if they be so, we shall be bound by them in subject terms of Union, which, in his own judgment, he is bound to think would not, if pressed, fail to be for the lasting benefit and welfare of the country. Can anything be more liberal than this? Some seem to think that, if we have free access to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, perhaps, they may be of such wealth as should give us advantages to us, if, if accepted, they would, in a manner, pour down showers of gold upon us! I cannot see the soundness of the opinion which these Resolutions have been objected to, and, for the acceptance of them, by the Dominion, may so far exasperate the Home Government, that we may have such reason to regret the determination which we may adopt. The hon. the gallant Colonel, the Leader of the Opposition, has, for the honor to all the past and present of the Executive Council, and to this part, which with the assistance of his hon. colleagues thereto, he then took with a view to the accomplishment of a Federation of the whole of the British North American Provinces and Colonies,—lately, he hoped that, not only each of these hon. gentlemen would agree with him, in opinion as to the desirability of such Federation, but also each of them as now differed with him, on that subject, would kindly bear with the free and independent expression of his sentiments concerning the same. He (Mr. Whelan) was, in the first place, willing, and, that although, as he repeated, these Resolutions, he stood, for and, personally opposed to some hon. gentlemen, of whom, not long since, he was a friend, of the Government, he should, yet, vote that, because, he saw no reason to believe that he could not still remain boon upon them, as his friends. The Government of Great Britain, continued the hon. gentleman, had ever been truly parental to the Island of Malta to our Sister Provinces, and our opposition to what the Imperial Government were thoroughly convinced would be for her lasting benefit, could not be viewed, by them, in any other light than that of a most ungrateful, rebellious, and, perhaps, illogical, which Great Britain had most abundantly and generously showered upon us; and we could not, therefore, reasonably expect that she would submit to be thwarted, by the stigmatized opposition, with respect to so grand a scheme as the Confederation of the British North American Provinces—the inauguration of another great power in the world. The Hon. and gallant Colonel—after again expressing a hope that the contemplated rejection of Confederation upon any terms, by the House, would so exasperate the Imperial Government, as to cause them to determine concerning us, as respected Confederation, according to the practice of irritable parents when dissatisfied to enforce submission on the part of refractory and disobedient children—concluded by saying he gave his hearty support to the Resolution of amendment submitted by the hon. member for St. Peter's (Hon. Mr. Whelan.)

Hon. Mr. McEACHEN. It appeared from the great sensitiveness of some hon. members on the subject of bribery, that only to hint the possibility of their being accessible to the influence of bribes, was a crime almost as gross as blasphemy. But we knew that no man was infallible; and that traitors had been found in higher circles than any in which these hon. but sensitive gentlemen had ever moved in, or were likely ever to move in. The hon. member who had spoken last had ridiculed the idea of Canada, with her army of 150,000 disciplined men being saved through the aid of little Prince Edward Island; but we had read of a nation having been saved by a mouse. It was crouching and cowardly to accept the idea that Great Britain would ever force us into Confederation against our will. What reasons could Mr. Carvell have to assign for so arbitrary a act? We were not disloyal, we were not traitors. The terms of the Quebec Scheme were unjust to us in every point of view—most glaringly so in a financial one—but the wrong done to us in that respect, would be light indeed when compared with the loss of our liberty—the loss of the power to legislate our own affairs.

Hon. Mr. COLON denied that he had ever agreed to the Quebec Scheme, and declared, that, when he found that

[illegible] it was impossible to obtain justice for Prince Edward Island, he told the Conference that they had better leave us out of the Scheme altogether. The hon. gentleman then argued that the only means by which we could escape being dragged into the Union, was positively to declare that we would not enter into it upon any terms. Unless we declared ourselves altogether hostile to the Scheme, we would be dragged in. He was true that the Home Government had not endeavored to compel our acceptance of the Scheme by threats of compulsion. Although we are the smallest of the Provinces, Mr. Carvell knows better than to do that. But if then, decidedly take our stand against our being forcibly dragged into the projected Union, resolved not to be compelled into it, until we find that we can no longer keep out—some Confederates argued that if we agreed to go into the Union even upon the proposed terms, there would be no insuperable difficulty, after its consummation, in the way of our obtaining better terms, should our claims be fully urged by our representatives in the Federal Parliament. Such an idea was absurd to the extreme. Of obtaining better terms, or even a revision of our claims, through the exertions on our behalf of our members, in the Federal House of Commons opposed to 147 Canadian members; we should just have as little chance as a cat without claws in Hell. It was folly indeed, to think that we might go into the Federation, and then obtain better terms than were offered to us by the Quebec Scheme. The Canadian statesmen thought we were too well off to be long free from direct taxation; but, happily free from burthens of that kind as we were, we had quite enough to do with all our money. The hon. gentlemen then commented with some severity on what the called the anomalous position of the Government with respect to the Confederation Question,—four members of it, in the Legislature, arguing in favor of Union, against five opposed to it. For a Government where so divided in opinion concerning the most important, the most vital question that the Government and Parliament of any country could be called upon to entertain—the remodelling of its Constitution and Government—was a thing unheard of. In the British Parliament, it was never found that, upon important questions, one member of the Administration voted in one way, and another, in another. It was said by those who argued in favor of Confederation, that if we valued British institutions, if we valued our rights and privileges as British subjects, we would accede to Confederation. He, however, maintained that were we to become a member of the projected Union, we would actually be deprived of all these, and retrograde a century. Confederation, instead of being a means of binding us more closely and indissolubly to the British Crown, would, eventually, be the cause of our separation from it. The moment the Upper House should come into collision with the Lower House, some extreme measure would be had recourse to. Should we, however, remain as we were, we would be safe. If we entered into Confederation, we would be much more in danger of quarreling with the United States than we are now. As we were, should we be assailed by the United States, what would Great Britain do with us, but protect us? The glory argument was that, by confederating with Canada and the other Provinces, we should become part and parcel of a great nation; but the people of Prince Edward Island knew themselves to be already part and parcel of a great nation, and they had no desire to belong to any other. As to defence, we were quite willing to contribute our full quota for that purpose according to our ability. We were told that, as it was the positive desire of the Home Government that we should agree