

jects that come before a Legislature are not embraced in it. If they are not embraced in it Nova Scotia has not therefore much cause for complaint. Education, Roads and Bridges, the control of our jurisprudence, and other subjects in which we take the deepest interest are left to our own controul. Then we have the same amount per head for our local government that they have in Canada, and if we manage to spend more money in proportion to our population than she does, it is only right we should pay for it. We go into that Union on the same terms. Every man, woman, and child will owe the same debt—receive the same amount from the general exchequer—as each man, woman, and child in Canada, and we shall have our full share of all the expenditures by the General Government for important public objects. We are told, however, nineteen members will have no influence in the General Legislature. I contend they will have as much influence relatively as the eight gentlemen representing Cape Breton now exercise in this house of fifty-five. That island is felt to be a part of our country, and entitled to a share of the general prosperity, and in Union each of the Provinces will feel an interest in the prosperity of the others. There may be some little rivalries, as we have now, but these will not exist as to local expenditures so much as affecting general principles and measures. Talent and energy will assert their proper positions in the general legislature as it does here and everywhere under free institutions. Nova Scotia may be a small Province, but her men will be able to hold their own I trust in the United Parliament. The nineteen men she will select to represent her will, I have no doubt, be able to protect her interests. As I have just said, Cape Breton receives a large influence in this House; her members have received everything that they can reasonably ask. Party Government must prevail in the new Parliament.—There must, as in all countries under Responsible Government be a Government and an Opposition, and Nova Scotia will exercise with her nineteen members a sufficient influence.—There is no party, however strong, that can afford to neglect the legitimate local interests of any one of their supporters. This government came into power some years ago, with a majority such as was never seen before in Nova Scotia, and who can allege that the local interests of any section were neglected. It is true that no government can satisfy the demands of all their followers—nor can they in adopting a general line of policy satisfy their friends; but I am now referring to the local interests that are to be represented. If any gentlemen have withdrawn their support from the government it is on general subjects; no one can say that local interests are disregarded; and I am free to say that the gentlemen from Nova Scotia will get their fair share of everything that they require, for there is no party at Ottawa that could refuse it to them with impunity. We all know that the Irish party, comparatively few in number, to a large extent, controlled public matters for years in the British Parliament.

We have had all sorts of aspersions thrown upon us. It is said that we are actuated solely by selfish motives. One gentleman is to be a governor, another a judge, every body is to

get something. I believe that the gentlemen who talk this way have some ideas floating in their minds that by opposing this scheme they may become something of the kind themselves. They believe, and the secret was let out by the hon. member for East Halifax, that the government is unpopular, in consequence of the School Bill; that if they can only keep things as they are for a few months longer, until a general election, they may come into power themselves; that when the present government is defeated, and they step out of office, they can, if necessary, carry Confederation themselves—then, no doubt, the people will be in favor of it—nothing will be then said about the constitutionality of dealing with it irrespective of an appeal to the people; or, they will have their choice of leaving things as they are, and holding an office as long as they can. Visions of Financial and other secretarieships; offices of Queen's Printer and others, are no doubt urging their powerful influences upon the patriotic minds of these gentlemen. So we may fairly suppose that these are the reasons that sway some hon. gentlemen, rather than those suggestions of patriotism of which we hear so much, but in practice see so little. They wish to have the alternative of choosing or rejecting Confederation, according as it may suit their own personal interests. Therefore they urge delay on the part of the present government in reference to the question. What unselfish patriots!

The hon member for Halifax has admitted that he said to gentlemen in this house that he would go to New Brunswick to see some Antic-confederates for the purpose of ascertaining whether they would not agree to a resolution something like the present one. He will allow me to say that if he had gone to the sister Province he would not have found Mr. Smith opposed to a union of the Provinces. I am not taking a liberty with that gentleman when I say that he has never pronounced himself against a scheme which would remove the objections he entertains to the Quebec plan of Confederation. The state of things in that Province itself proves that the large mass of the people entertain similar views on the subject.

I know that I have not dealt with this question as its importance demands, but although unprepared and not expecting to speak to day I could not allow the resolution to pass with a silent vote. Present and aiding in the Charlottetown and Quebec Conventions, I came to the conclusion that it was for the interest of Nova Scotia, as well as her duty to the great Empire to which she belongs, that she should adopt this Union. I have endeavoured to give these crude observations in a dispassionate and calm manner. I have given some of the reasons that influence my judgment in favour of the resolution before the house and now say most emphatically that if there are any persons who prefer annexation to the United States, let them, in Heaven's name, follow the example of the hon. member for Yarmouth, but do not let them attempt by false representations to thwart the efforts of those who would bring about a Union of the Provinces. I say, however, to gentlemen around these benches, who value the flag that "for a thousand years has braved the battle