

and on the other hand, the independence of the Confederate States, which would be followed by France, and the recognition of France, no doubt, by a peace between the Federal and Confederate States. What then would become of Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, and others of the Western States, that are from the Mississippi? Sir, they would find a position in the Southern Confederacy. They would be of their territory south and west, the Northern States would extend their boundaries in other directions. What would be the position of these Colonies? The British Government, in the event of pretending to maintain a neutrality between the belligerent powers, through a false and spurious neutrality, in which the case of the steam ships at Liverpool, has given the occasion to parties conflicting party. When the colonies of the belligerent governments are trembling in the balance, they are easy disposed to imagine that every influence has been directed in their favor, or against them. Owing to recent occurrences the South does not now look with favor on our government; this I regret, for the white population of the Confederate States are the natural sons of Britain. On the other hand, the North has never seemed satisfied with the course pursued by the British Government during the present war, and in consequence of the case this need not be wondered at, for her people are a mixed population gathered from all the nations of the earth. In the event of peace, the South would be in a position to be in a better position than the North. The Confederate States unquestionably have a large debt, but this is chiefly in the hands of her own people, and might be some what repaid. With the North, however, it is different; her resources are held all over the world—in England, France, Russia, and other countries; and her debt would accordingly that of Great Britain, will have to be paid. The army of the North now numbers about 600,000 men; nearly all mercenaries; men whose services can be bought and sold. These troops will have to be provided for, and should hostile feelings against the South, this government which employed them will have to seek for them; another half of them of these men are the soldiers of New York, and other large cities; and to satisfy their thirst for plunder, they will in all probability demand to be let loose on Canada. The villages and towns of the Confederate States will afford them ample cause to revel and gratify their rapacity. Taking this view of the case I think that something will be long required to be done to save these Colonies for self-defense. A Union must be effected after legislation on Federal. I am not prompted to say, however, how it is to be carried out, or what are to be the arrangements. If there is to be a Legislative Union of these Maritime Provinces, are new government and parliament buildings to be erected, and where are they to be built? Is Charlottetown, or Summerside, to be the capital of Quebec, or Antigonish, or whatever the locality may be called? Are we to be the Ottawa of the United Provinces, and are buildings to be erected here, costing as in Canada, millions of dollars? Then, again when are the Sessions of Parliament to be held? In December, January, February, or in June, July or September? Are we to be required to keep our Representatives at home, capital in one of the sister Provinces, from autumn to spring, or are they to be expected to take pole in hand and leap from ice-berg to ice-berg across the Straits in the dead of winter? All these are questions which would require to be answered, before I would be prepared to say whether it would be expedient or not for this Colony to enter into the proposed union. I have heard it objected by some that this Island could not represent in the executive government of the United Colonies, as, on account of the distance, and the inconvenience of travelling, members of government from here would be unable to attend the cabinet meetings of the whole. I, however, say yes no force in this objection, as any gentleman who could obtain a seat in the executive of the United Provinces, would in doubt have a salary of £1,000 a year. It is also objected by some that this Colony would be swallowed in a Union with the sister Provinces. Sir, I have no apprehensions on this ground. I would not allow myself or my country to be swallowed by any body of men on earth. We Sir, are here to maintain our rights, and we shall never enter a Union which will deprive us of this birthright. In a United Legislature we might possess the balance of parties, and if we could our claims, might force the government to do as we wished. We would be in a position similar to the Irish members in the British Parliament who frequently compel the government yield to their requests. But as I have already stated the only course which is prudent for us at present to adopt, is that pointed out in the resolution which I have submitted, namely

to authorize the appointment of Delegates to the next year's meeting to consider the expediency of a Union.

**HON. OPPOSITION SECRETARY.**—Mr. Chairman, I second with much pleasure, the resolution just submitted by my honorable friend, the Leader of the Government. It is possible that the House shall authorize the Hon. Secretary of the Lieutenant Governor to appoint delegates to confer with delegates who may be appointed by the neighboring Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for the purpose of discussing the expediency of a union of the lower Provinces, or rather, a reunion of these dependencies. Chief among the motives from which have sprung the evils under which this Island suffers, in my opinion, may be ranked the granting the Township lands in the year 1769, and the constituting the Island a separate government three years afterwards. The one evil produced the other. In 1769, in answer to the prayer of a large number of the grantees, this Island was separated from the Province of Nova Scotia, of which New Brunswick was then a part, and constituted a distinct government, on condition that the grantees should provide funds for the payment of its civil establishment. The grantees, although they failed to perform that condition in this respect have, nevertheless, been enabled to control the destinies of the colony from the first day of its existence as a separate government to the present hour. They also, without an exception neglected to fulfill the conditions upon which they received their Townships, yet such was the influence which they were enabled to command, that they did so with impunity. Their lands became liable to Escheat, and should have been retained by the Crown, but the grantees induced the Ministers of George III., from 1769 to 1783, to waive the forfeiture; and the evil created by the original grantees, in consequence, been perpetuated to this day. I have stated that this Island was, prior to 1769, a portion of the Province of Nova Scotia, although this was the case, the inhabitants were not represented in the parliament of Nova Scotia, nor were the laws of that Province made to extend to Prince Edward Island. In 1768 the Government of Nova Scotia sent to the Island a Mr. Morris, Surveyor of the Province of Nova Scotia, who had taken Charlottetown after Mr. Deshaumes, who was appointed by Governor Franklin, the first Magistrate of the Island of Saint John. At this gentleman's request the Court of Common Pleas for Charlottetown, and from his reports I learn that the population of the Island then consisted of 271 souls, of whom 208 were French Acadians. There is something very ridiculous in the idea of a colony so limited in extent as this Island, who consisting only of a few hundred of inhabitants, having a Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, and two Legislative Chambers, playing at King, Lords and Commons. In 1774, the 60th year of the existence of the Island as a separate government, a serious war was taken, and it was found that the population of the Island had increased to 1,216 souls. In 1783, our Island was relinquished to Nova Scotia. It nevertheless retained its separate government and legislature, although Walter Patterson, the first Governor, and Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, received Dutch promotion, and was afterwards known as Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Chairman, the inhabitants of this Island have never been able to remedy the first of the two evils of which I have spoken, that caused by the original grantees and to recover in the Crown the lands so injudiciously granted in 1769; but Sir, they may now remedy the second, they may now again become one with the neighboring Provinces. I propose to enquire. How would such a union affect this Island? It would be plain to every gentleman of this Committee, that the legislation of this Island cannot be of a nature calculated to develop the resources and to promote its prosperity, so long as the inhabitants are divided into two parties, the one violently antagonistic to the other—so long as the chief object of one party is to hold office, and of the other to obtain office. I readily admit, Mr. Chairman, that, in my opinion, we have party legislation in the worst form, and that neither of the parties into which we are divided, is free from the influence of party spirit. Party animosities are violent in all communities, in proportion to their size. Our community is a very limited one, and the differences which divide us partake of a religious character. Of 25,000 of our inhabitants are arrayed in bitter antagonism to the remaining 45,000. We