

was directed by every means in his power to promote."

In the month of March, 1865, he (Mr. S.) with his friend Mr. Wilnot, formed a Council on anti-Confederation principles. But where was that gentleman to be found now? Forming a Government on the Quebec Scheme. He desired the hon. members to think of it. Only thirteen months had yet elapsed, and now that gentleman, elected and pledged to oppose Confederation, and who assisted to form a Council on an Anti basis, was found working with those who were determined to force upon the people of this Province that very scheme.

Mr. WILNOT here stated that at the time of his resignation he impressed upon the leader of the Government the necessity of opening new negotiations for Union.

Mr. SMITH would come to that bye and bye; at present he would proceed with the reply:

"The Lieutenant Governor also endeavored, to the best of his ability, to point out to Mr. Smith the advantages of a real and effective Union of the British North American Provinces, and the urgent necessity, under existing circumstances, of effecting such a measure.

His Excellency stated his confident belief, that after having been accepted as a basis, it were found that the details of the Scheme agreed to at Quebec were open to just and serious objections on the part of the Maritime Provinces, the representation of their Legislature to that effect would be certain to receive a respectful attention from Her Majesty's Government, and from that of Canada. His Excellency concluded by handing to Mr. Smith the following confidential Memorandum:—

"CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM.

"The Lieutenant Governor has been instructed by a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, bearing date 24th June, 1865, to express to the Legislature of New Brunswick, on its next re-assembling, 'the strong and deliberate opinion of Her Majesty's Government, that it is an object much to be desired that all the British North American Colonies should agree to unite in one Government.'

The Lieutenant Governor has now fixed the 8th proximo as the day upon which the General Assembly is to meet for despatch of business, and before that period it is highly desirable that he should be informed whether his advisers are prepared to recommend the Legislature to give effect to the opinion thus expressed by Her Majesty's Government.

(Signed) A. GORDON."

Fredericton, February, 1866.

This Memorandum, in compliance with Mr. Smith's urgent request, was not formally transmitted to the Council, but it was carefully read by him, and its substance communicated to his colleagues.

Mr. Smith must have perceived, although His Excellency abstained from any expression calculated to rouse his susceptibility, that had the enquiry embodied in that Memorandum received a negative response His Excellency was prepared to decline to accede to the recommendation that Mr. Wilnot's resignation should be accepted, and to entrust

to that gentleman the responsibility of attempting to carry into effect the policy on account of his adherence to which he desired to quit the Government.

After several communications with the other members of the Council, Mr. Smith ultimately informed His Excellency that, whilst unable to accept in its integrity the Scheme adopted at Quebec, he and his colleagues were not indisposed to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government; and that it appeared to him that the requisite sanction for the adoption of such a course might be obtained if the Message transmitting the papers on this subject to the Legislature were refused to a Joint Committee of both Houses, with an understanding that that Committee should report in favor of a measure of Union."

Here hon. members would see how the Government were pressed. Whenever his duty brought him in contact with the Governor, the question continually was, "What are you going to do on Union?" The friends of the Government knew all along what they intended to do. They had spoken to their friends and laid their plans before them, but the trouble was, that the Opposition seemed to be as well informed on what transpired in the Council as the Government itself. They had all heard the reports and rumors which had been whispered about. He would ask hon. members if it had not been said that Smith had signed a paper committing him to the Quebec Scheme, provided four more members were added from the Legislative Council?

MR. WILNOT asked, Who said it?

MR. SMITH did not say it came from his hon. friend. He, at least, ought to know him too well to circulate such a story as that.

MR. WETMORE thought those who heard this report and those who told it should be named.

MR. NEEDHAM said it had been said to him, no matter by whom.

MR. CAIE said hon. members in Opposition had better not say too much. He would expose more of their secrets than they would like to hear.

MR. SMITH would declare before the House, and to his friends, and to those who knew what he had agreed to do, that he had never signed any such paper. He felt that he would stand by the ship to the last, and if the people wished confederation, then he might die politically, but he would in that case die standing by his friends.

"His Excellency replied that he had no objection to such a course, provided it was clearly understood beforehand that this reference was to be made only with a view of rendering it easier for the Government to adopt a course which they had themselves in any case resolved to pursue, and with no intention to cast upon the Committee the duty of finding a policy for the Government; for that a reference of such a description, besides involving an abdication of their proper functions as a Government, would cause much delay, and might after all terminate in a report unfavorable to union, in which case it was needless to point out to him that so far from any progress having been made in the desired direction, the position of the cause would have been materially injured.

Mr. Smith answered that he could not of course formally pledge beforehand a

Committee of the Legislature, but that in making himself responsible for the recommendation, it would be with the view of honestly carrying out the policy, so indicated.

The Committee having reported, the next step to be taken appeared to His Excellency to be the introduction by the Government of an Address to the Queen, praying Her Majesty to take steps for the accomplishment of the union, and His Excellency drew out the rough outline of such an Address, similar in substance to that adopted by the Canadian Parliament; but adding a representation that portions of the scheme agreed to at Quebec were received with apprehension and alarm by a large part of the people of this and the adjoining Province, and a prayer that Her Majesty would be pleased, in the preparation of any Imperial Act to effect the desired union, to give just weight to the objections urged against such provisions on their behalf, and would afford the Provincial Legislature an opportunity of considering the scheme agreed upon, before its final adoption. His Excellency understood Mr. Smith to assent to this proposal, and his impression to that effect is confirmed by finding it so stated in a note made at the time, and read by His Excellency a few days subsequently to Mr. Smith, and in the Despatch based on these notes, addressed by His Excellency to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. Smith has lately, however, assured His Excellency that he only meant that such an Address might "grow out of the Committee," but did not intend, in the first instance, to propose it."

Those words "grow out of Committee," he would show who made use of those words. He wished the House to understand that his mind had never wavered. He was in England, and saw Mr. Cardwell, and after a short conversation, he was fully convinced that the British Government was committed to the Quebec Scheme. He saw that they were inspired entirely by Canada in their desires and wishes; but it would be better to take the Quebec Scheme than to send home a delegation to ask this Imperial enactment. By that means they would save their money, for they might make up their minds that the Imperial Parliament were committed to that Scheme with out the slightest change. The same influence was at work in Nova Scotia. These men who were opposed to Union last year were now right round, and petitioning the British Government to consummate it by Imperial enactment. He wanted the House to know that the enemy was at the door, and it became every man to know and understand the position in which they stood. He would not say what the means were which were being used to enslave the people, but he would leave it with the country to decide if any had been, and what they were.

"A controversy with respect to the words used in conversation, and the meaning intended to be conveyed by them, is seldom capable of satisfactory settlement, and it is not His Excellency's intention to discuss the greater accuracy of Mr. Smith's memory, or his own.

Whatever the precise nature of the course agreed to on the 17th February was, it was one to which it was felt that