

Mr. McCLELLAN.—Another point dwelt upon was the origin of the idea of a Union of the Colonies. I do not know whether he refers to the difference in the race and creed of the Canadians. He quotes from Mr. Galt's speech, and says these difficulties were sufficient in themselves—

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—No; I said that the idea was formed from these difficulties.

Mr. McCLELLAN.—He said the difficulties were sufficient in themselves to bring this about, but it might have been a *lapus lingue*. But let us look at the opinion of the Lower Canadians on this point. Mr. McClellan here read from Cartier's speech, who is a Frenchman himself, to show that the difference of races and religions was an additional argument in favour of Union; thus merging everything in one general rally around one general constitutional Government, filled from petty sectarian, or national, factious, impediments and entanglements. That I think is a much higher view to take than to bring it down to a matter of creed and race, and to get her out of her difficulties while we incur none ourselves by this great Union. It is somewhat embarrassing to rise and speak for Confederation, for we may be charged with being actuated by selfish motives; it may be said that we are looking toward Ottawa. I should like to see the Hon. President of the Council at Ottawa, for I am sure his abilities would shine there, and I think he would gain a wider and a higher view of the wants of these Colonies. It is a poor principle, however, to refuse great national benefits, because some personal benefit may arise from it. If this principle were to hold then all would be precluded from doing anything for the good of mankind. But all these charges of ambitious and selfish motives need not be confined to one side. May we not also ask if the Hon. President of the Council did not in the position he took, see his present seat looming up in the distance? I say nothing against it; I am glad to see him there, and should like to see him higher, but I do not like to see him in his present company. Is he not as open to these kind of charges as these delegates? Did not some other office even than that he now occupies open up before him? And I do not blame him if it did. I do not say it was so, but simply that he is as open to such charges as others. Hence the Government was unpopular; why not say that they were a dead weight on Confederation? And that if as they went down the great talents of my hon. and learned friend were to be called up, there would be a chance opened for many for office and emolument; I say this might have been if the principle he enunciates be true. Although this question has been a long time before the mother country, yet it has only been a short time before our people, and to take up a great principle and oppose it on the simple basis of taxation is certainly taking advantage of the ignorance and credulity of the people. This argument of the opponents of the Scheme had its weight. And then in the southern part of the Province the people were very much guided by ecclesiastical influences; for although the Archbishop of Halifax had boldly come out and declared in favor of the Scheme, yet by some means or other the priests in the southern part of the Province at least were combined to use their influence over the people to vote against it.

(This proposition was denied by Hon. Mr. Anglin on the part of the Catholic Clergy of St. John, and by Mr. Landry on the part of those of Westmorland.—*MONITOR*.)

My impression at any rate is that such was the case. I do not wish to utter a word against that body, but I do believe that a strong and combined effort was put forth to get the people to oppose it. I do not say, and I do not believe that it was general, for I know many intelligent and respectable men of that church who were favourable to it.

Mr. L. P. W. DESBRISAY.—I would ask if the clergymen of other denominations used their influence in favor of the Scheme? I know they did.

Mr. McCLELLAN.—They might have done so, and if the hon. member knows that such was the case he need not have asked.

(At this stage there was considerable disorder arising from a regular round of calls to order as one member after another stood up to say something with regard to the length of the speeches of different members, and the state of feeling which should be exhibited by the supporters of the Government toward the small opposition, at the close of which Mr. Wetmore remarked that if hon. members chose to go outside and get crammed and plugged with what to say indoors, he did not know that other hon. members need to put themselves out at all to listen, but the speakers could get the plugging out as best they could. The Reporter was in his place and that was enough.—*REPORTER*.)

Mr. McCLELLAN.—I do not know what the hon. member for the City of Saint John means by cramming and plugging, but from such expressions becoming frequent of late and appearing in the Reports, I am getting used to it. He cannot stifle free discussion in this House, if such did prevail at elections. It seems to be inferred that all who are opposed to Confederation must necessarily be in favor of these Resolutions. Now although there may be a majority here against the Scheme, yet they may not all be willing to appoint the delegation, as the people of England by the *Times* and the action of this country know all about it. There may be many who may think the state of the country will not admit of these splendid delegations. We heard that we were not to have so many of them as heretofore, but the anxiety to have one now appointed puts me in mind of a boy going through a churchyard and whistling to keep his courage up. It seems as though after all the apparent carelessness as to the result that there was a feeling lest Confederation was not quite dead yet, or at least that it might after all rise up and frighten them. I do not know who the delegates will be, probably the Hon. President of the Council and the hon. member from Saint John, (Mr. Anglin) will be among them, and if so it may be as well for the one to visit the home of his childhood and the familiar scenes that will be presented to him there, the other may perhaps go to Paris, where he would have a very nice time of course, and all at the people's expense. The Resolutions now under discussion clearly affirm that the judgment of the people has been pronounced, and that Her Majesty's Government has been apprised of the fact, and it goes on to ask the appointment of a delegation to go home to tell them again. I will now read a little article I have here, transcribed from the London *Times* to the columns of the *Freeman* with the comments of A. B., an hon. correspondent who does not repeat the remarks of members always fairly or correctly: "Confederation comes to us from the Colonies and it is for the Colonies to decide upon it. We

cannot coerce the New Brunswickers into a new political union, nor can we object to their remaining in the position which they have, so long occupied without complaint on our part or theirs." The hon. member, (Mr. Anglin) quoted the *Times*, to justify his position. I give the above, as his own quotation too—a complete offset. The hon. President says the sayings of public men can be properly referred to. He was a public man in 1837, and what did he then say in this House of Mr. Tilley, when that gentleman had been rejected by his constituents on another question. He (Mr. Smith) deeply regretted the absence from office of the late Provincial Secretary, Mr. Tilley. To that gentleman, who was now within his hearing—so was he yesterday—he would offer no eulogium; but this he would say, his absence from the office was a great loss, and was so regarded throughout the whole Province, where his talent and honesty were known and recognized. Was it such a man who would lend himself to the systematic ruin of the Province? or were hon. members to be told by the political proteus who now held the office that Mr. Tilley was not fit to discharge his duty, &c. &c. What change has "come over the spirit of his dreams,"—the political proteus, his colleague now, is converted into a miracle of finance, and the Hon. Mr. Tilley has been plotting and conspiring to enslave his native country! It is perfectly understood that Confederation will not be forced on this country, and yet I heard an hon. member say that unless a delegation were sent Home this conspiracy would have its effect, and the country would be enslaved. I can imagine my hon. friend going to Fishmonger Hall and making his mark there; but I hope if they go they will tell not only the truth, but the whole truth. Tell them that the number of Anti-Confederate members in this House does not correspond with the feeling on the question in the country. I hope that they will show that there were not over six hundred votes majority against the Scheme in the late elections, and that many of those who opposed it then have since changed their views. This is the case I know in Albert; I find, in conversation with intelligent men, that it is so in Fredericton, and I hear it is the same in many other parts of the country. I hope they will tell the people of England and Ireland, or wherever they go, that the people of this Province are not such fools as to reject Colonial Union—a Union upheld by all the colonists of distinction for the past half century. The Hon. Joseph Howe has always stood up for this Union, and so has Judge Johnston, a man of the highest attainments.

I may here advert to a remark of Lord Durham, to show that a Colonial Union was necessary in the opinion of that eminent constitutionist, in order to rid the separate colonies of the disorders arising from the influence of designing and ambitious individuals, as by affording a large scope for the desires of such men as shall direct their ambition into the legitimate character of furthering, and not of thwarting, their Government. "By creating high prizes, in a general and responsible Government, we shall immediately afford the means of pacifying the turbulent ambitious, and of employing, in worthy and noble occupations, the talents which are now only exerted to foment disorder." I am anxious to give my friend, the President of the Council, a wider scope for his powers and ability, and I hope that he