

It was a king of bears—an Ursa Major;

The fattest bear beneath the sun.

The skin the chaps would wager,

Was cheap at double cost;

'Twould make one laugh at first—

And make two robes as well as one.

(In their accounts 'twas theirs

But in his own the bears.)

By bargain struck upon the skin

Three mouths at most must bring it in,

Forth went the *five*. More easy found than got,

The bear came growling at them on the trot,

Behold our dealers all confounded!

As if by thunderbolt astounded!

Their bargain vanished suddenly in air;

For who could plead his interest with a bear?

Four of the friends sprung up a tree:

The other, cold as ice could be,

Fell on his face, feigned death,

And closely held his breath,—

He having somewhere—heard it said

The bear ne'er preys upon the dead.

Sir Bear, sad blockhead, was deceived—

The prostrate man a corpse believed;

But, half suspecting some deceit,

He feels and snuffs from head to feet,

And in the nostrils blows.

The body's surely dead, he thinks

I'll leave it for it stinks;

And off into the woods he goes.

The other dealers from their tree

Descending cautiously, to see

Their comrade lying in the dirt

Consoling, says it is a wonder

That, by the monster forced assunder,

Were—after all—more scared than hurt,

But, addeth they, what of the creatures skin?

He held his muzzle very near;

What did he whisper in your ear?

He gave this caution,—“Never dare

Again to sell the skin of bear.

Its owner has not ceased to wear.

Now our dealers not finding Sir Bear disposed to quietly part with his skin have determined to get him into a trap. They seek by this resolution on the table for another convention to entrap Nova Scotia into the scheme as arranged at Quebec. My hon. friend from Richmond is correct in stating that they have no other object in view, and I shall ask the House to follow me while I consider the constitution prepared for us at that Quebec conference.

We are told by the Provincial Secretary of the government they proposed to constitute a Federation of British North America. And it appears to me that in the very outset, in the second resolution of this report, they have given the evidence which shows that this Federal Union cannot be stable under the circumstances. They allude there to the “*diversity of the interests of the several Provinces.*”

The fact that the interests of the Provinces are so diversified that each has its own interest, and its centre of interest within itself—precludes the possibility of a Federal Union being formed to work harmoniously. Under present regulations our separate interests are not brought into

antagonism—why then should we bring about a change which will make the interests of the several Provinces clash and destroy that harmony of feeling that is existing among these Colonies? The hon. member for South Colchester, read to you from Judge Story, that when Provinces unite they make mutual sacrifices and concessions in order to obtain some great purpose. One purpose for which they would make that sacrifice would be, that they might obtain mutual aid. In this case there would not be that influence at work in order to induce us to consent to a sacrifice of our interests—an attack upon one is under present regulation an attack upon all—besides we have now the protection of England—we have the command of her armies. She has told us that her honour demands that she should protect her Colonies. Therefore, while they are loyal, no necessity exists why we should make such sacrifices as is proposed. And if the necessity be not apparent the people will not submit to them.

I come now to another branch of the subject—the nature of the representation. We are to have local governments, and a General Government over all. In that General Government, Nova Scotia is to have a representation of 19 out of 194. Now the Provincial Secretary tells us that this is as much as we have any right to expect according to our population, and he stated that if these terms were not just, we had only the delegates to blame. I contend, in view of the geographical position of Nova Scotia—800 miles may form the capital, and almost an island—that the principle of representation by population was not at all sufficient to do her justice. You don't give to the city of Halifax a representation proportioned to the population because you feel that by the Parliament meeting here, influences can be brought to bear upon it that compensates for a less representation. As you recede from the place of the meeting of Parliament, representation should increase in order to give a balance of influence.—The city of London, with a population of nearly 3,000,000—one-tenth of the Empire—has only 16 representatives. If you adopted the principle in question, she ought to have one-tenth of the whole number in Parliament. The reason why it is not carried out, is the Parliament meets there, and that the influence given the city thereby, is sufficient for her. On examination of a table prepared in 1859, I find that as you recede from the place of meeting of Parliament—the proportion of representatives of counties to the population increases. The Counties of Middlesex, Surrey and Kent (exclusive of London) with a population of 3,185,424 have 43 members; one to every 74,074 of the population; in the extreme North, Cumberland, Northumberland, and Durham, with a population of 890,059 have 29 members; one to 30,691 of population. On the extreme South, Cromwell, Devon and Dorset, having a population of 1,106,863 returns 50 members; one to 22,137 of population; on the extreme west, Anglesea, Cameron and Denbigh have 237,780 population and 7 members. And so should there be an increase here, because the great distance from Ottawa