

do with Nova Scotia or Canada; we will act for ourselves, and in our acts we should show we are willing to keep public faith with those abroad as well as with those at home. I ask the members of the House how they can—with the issue of these money orders—sustain abroad the integrity they ought to sustain in regard to them? They cannot. I have expressed my views, and I must confess, if they had established a new dynasty, a new regime, propounded a new system of Government, they might have adopted a different system from what they have now; but when they have a system of Responsible Government in operation, whether it is for weal or woe, we are bound to carry out that principle of responsibility in all our actions. It is something extraordinary if thirty-six members are afraid of some three or four Generals. I am not afraid of them, and I doubt whether any member of the House is. If they bring forward any measure that the other members of the House feel is inimical to the interests of the country, they cannot get it to pass with all their acuteness and generalship, even if they had a majority of one. If we had truth and justice on our side, I should feel that "he is thrice armed whose quarrel is just." I do not care how many Generals there are on the floors of the House; if the principles of responsible and departmental Government are true, there are no offices but what the head officer should be a political one. These are the political views I entertain in regard to responsible and departmental Government. So long as I entertain these views, I cannot vote for a Bill that will place the head of so important a department as the Post Office where he cannot be called to account.

Mr. CONNELL.—There was a very grave reflection made upon me by two hon. members of this House. I expected, from the standing which those hon. members have in this House that they would have understood the usage of the House, and when they made a statement respecting the character of a late head of a department, they would have been prepared to have proved it. I challenge them to bring forward their proof of the statements they have made. I wish to show to the country the position they occupy by the course they took with reference to my position while head of a department. If the office had not been here, but had been kept at the City of St. John, I would not have got an important misfire from the office, and the just indignation of the House and country would have been poured upon my head. Happily for me I am in a position to show to the House and country that those statements are not founded in truth, and have no foundation whatever. In reference to Elijah Clark, it is true there was an investigation into this loss of a letter. It was investigated by Mr. Johnson, and I also investigated the matter, and I found the direction of Elijah Clark was to send it by steamer from St. John; instead of that it was sent by the way of Calais, in the United States. The department having sent the letter contrary to the direction, I believed the money ought to be paid, and I reported these facts without taking any action in the matter. I was not present during the sitting of the last Legislature when these charges were made against me. I am surprised that no member of the Government was found to place me in a proper position. I am now here to answer for myself. While I held that office I challenge any man to show where I was derelict in my duty or did not dis-

charge the duties of that office faithfully. What was the state of facts, after I left the office. An order in Council was made, and Post Master General Steadman paid the money. I obtained authority from the President of the Council and went over to the office with this memorandum: To Mr. Hale—"Give Mr. Connell every information in regard to the payment of the claim of Elijah Clark.—A. J. S., and received this reply:—"I have to inform you that you made no order for payment of Elijah Clark. He was paid by order of Council, by Hon. James Steadman, in 1861." J. HALE.

C. CONNELL.—Now, those gentlemen having made a statement affecting my reputation, I think some explanation is due from them.

Mr. COSTIGAN.—When I first heard that this office was to be abolished, I was opposed to it; but if it is to be a saving to the country I will go for it. I have listened to the arguments for and against it, but I have not seen wherein there will be any great amount of saving. This is a great change, and ought not to be made without some reason. The same arguments used for removing this department can be used for every department on the floor of the House. It is said that the Post Master General, in running an election in his own County, will yield to unreasonable demands in regard to Post Offices and mail routes, for the purpose of securing his election. This same argument might be used against any other department. Suppose the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works runs an election in the County of York, it may be urged that his constituents will call upon him to give them a more than reasonable share of the expenditure on roads and bridges. I have no doubt but this bill will be carried, although it may be that before four or five years the office will be again on the floors of the House, because it is too important an office to remove.

Mr. KERR.—I did state that a sum of money had been paid to Mr. Clark by order of the Post Master General without the concurrence of the Council. I have seen and examined the vouchers on file in this House, and I find that matter commenced in 1855 and continued to stand over from time to time, and after my hon. friend left the Government. On the 4th of January, 1861, the matter was brought up and a report made that the amount should be paid. I now acknowledge that I was labouring under a mistake. I retract the charge and avow that I made the mistake unintentionally; when I made that charge I was under the conviction that the order was made without the sanction of the Council. Mr. Williston also apologized, and Mr. Connell said he was satisfied with the explanation. The Bill was agreed to. 30 yeas; 9 nays.

On motion of Mr. CUDLIP the House went into a Committee of the whole to take into consideration

THE CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED INTERCOLONIAL UNION.

Mr. CUDLIP.—I see by the last mail from England that this question, although decided by the people of this Province legitimately at the polls, is still being agitated in England. It has been boldly stated by various parties there, that the election in New Brunswick was not the true exponent of public opinion, and that there had been a reaction since the election had been held, and there would now be a majority in favour of the Scheme, that taking out two constituencies the present position would have been reversed. The whole Go-

vernment has been carried on by one or two constituencies, the late Government had a majority of four or five, and without the support of St. John they would not have been in existence; therefore they had not the confidence of the country. We cannot have one rule to apply to one case and one to another. It is said the question was tried on false issues that many voted against the Scheme for the purpose of turning out those in power. The same argument can be used on the other side. I have known men who voted the anti-Confederate ticket in the County, yet in consideration of a feeling of regard for Mr. Tilley they voted in favour of the Scheme in the City; and if ever there was a true exposition of public opinion, it was on that question. The Union between England and Scotland, and also between England and Ireland was carried by bribery. It is said false statements are circulated in England by the Canadian delegation, to induce them to legislate for us in regard to this Intercolonial Union. If there is anything of that kind in contemplation, they had better pause before they attempt it, for we would resist coercion whether it was brought against us directly or indirectly. I think it would be a prudent course to send a delegation home to correct those false representations, and have therefore prepared the following resolutions, and will now move that they be adopted:—

"Whereas, the House in a Committee of the Whole had under consideration the resolutions of the Conference held at Quebec on the 10th day of October last, on the subject of the proposed Confederation of the British North American Colonies,"

"And Whereas, it is the opinion of this House that the consummation of said Scheme would prove politically, commercially, and financially disastrous to the best interests and prosperity of this Province;"

"And Whereas, the loyalty and attachment of the people of this Province to the Throne and Government of Great Britain cannot be justly impugned, and they have always manifested a desire to maintain their connection with the Mother Country, and to remain a portion of the British Empire;"

"And Whereas, in the exercise of the right of intercol self-Government enjoyed by this Province, its people are entitled to deliberate and decide upon all questions affecting their own local interests in such manner as to them may seem best calculated to promote their prosperity and welfare;"

"And Whereas, the General Assembly of this Province was, in the month of February 1st, dissolved by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor availing to obtain the decision of the people upon the resolutions adopted at the Conference and now before this House;"

"And Whereas, at the elections consequently held, the people of this Province clearly and unequivocally pronounced a judgment adverse to the adoption of the said resolutions;"

"And Whereas, this House confidentially believes that Her Majesty's Government will receive with due attention the expression of opinion of this Province so pronounced;"

"And Whereas, this House has reason to fear Her Majesty's Government are but imperfectly aware of the true state of the feelings of the people of this Province on this subject;"

"Therefore Resolved, as the opinion of this House, that a delegation should at