

Hon. ATT. GEN. gave notice that he would move a resolution compelling Mr. Annand to lay the papers on the table.

The house then adjourned to the following day at 3 o'clock.

SATURDAY, April 14th.

The house opened at 5 o'clock.

Mr. MILLER presented several petitions against Confederation, which he had sent to Richmond previous to the session, but which, he said, were meagrely signed.

Mr. LONGLEY, a petition for the separation of the sale of groceries from liquors.

Mr. BLANCHARD, a petition on the subject of Confederation.

Mr. TOBIN reported from the Railway Committee.

Hon. PROV. SECY. said:—I wish to call the attention of the house to the fact that on Friday the hon. member for East Halifax (Mr. Annand,) made a statement destructive of the character of a public man in British America of high standing, and I rose immediately to state that it was my intention to telegraph to Mr. Brown on the subject. My object at the time was to give the member for East Halifax an opportunity of correcting me if I misstated him. I at once telegraphed to Mr. Brown these words:—

"To Hon. George Brown, M. P. P., Toronto:  
Mr. Annand said, on the floor of the House to-day: 'I had an interview with the Hon. George Brown recently. I could have had money if I had wished it, and was promised preferment and place in Canada if I would support Confederation.'"

I will take my oath that this was the language that was used. Mr. Brown's answer is here before me. He says:—

"It is impossible Mr. Annand could have made such a statement. It is true that he called upon me at my house and we discussed the question of Confederation; but money, or preferment, or any other personal consideration was neither promised, nor suggested, nor harboured in speech or thought by me.—The speech, however connected, is a villainous falsehood."

(Cheers in the galleries.)

Mr. ANNAND.—In the first place, let me say—and I am in the judgment of my friends who heard me—that the word *money* never came out of my mouth. Let me state the facts. I was not offered money; I was not offered preferment directly, but the hon. member for Richmond has correctly stated the substance of the conversation. I was reminded by Mr. Brown that I belonged to the Old Liberal party, of which he had been for very many years the leader in Canada. I was approached by him in this way: "I have always sworn by the *Chronicle* and the *Nova Scotian*. We are all Liberals. They are in the ascendancy in Canada; they will also be in the ascendancy in Nova Scotia. Come up to Canada, and the Liberals will rule. It will be your interest to come."

Mr. MILLER.—It will be in the recollection of the house that the Provincial Secretary interrupted the hon. member, and asked that his words be given in writing, in order that there might be no misconception. Now, I not only hear the language read by the Prov. Secy., but the words as they fell from the hon. member.—

I was not allowed at the time to give the contradiction of the statement, but did so as soon as I could. Then I stated precisely what the hon. member has now said, and yet he replied: "All I have to say is, that the hon. gentleman is mistaken." Now he says—"it is true." If there is a man in Nova Scotia or British North America who, within the last ten days occupies a position that has drawn upon him the contempt and the pity of every one, it is the hon. member; but if there is anything that could add to his degradation, it is the humiliating spectacle which he presents to-day.

Mr. ANNAND.—The last person who should rise on the floors of this house and impeach the veracity of any hon. gentleman is the hon. member for Richmond. I have under my hand the evidence how little importance can be attached to anything he says. It will be in the recollection of the house that the hon. member for Inverness asked me, the other day, how the petitions I presented against Confederation got down into that county. I replied it was through the instrumentality of a gentleman who went over to the Government on Confederation. The hon. member for Richmond rose and said that he was no party to it. I hold in my hand this remarkable paper to show that the hon. gentleman was in favor of having the question referred to the polls, but what more? He came to my office to put into my hand this paper, and as he did so he said: "I don't want to be known in this matter; I don't wish to go into Inverness, as Mr. McDonnell is a friend of mine; will you send these petitions asking that the question of Confederation be submitted to the people at the polls?" These petitions were sent, and, as you have seen, have come back to the house. The hon. member, with the view of stimulating the people, wrote the paper which I hold in my hand, and I had it printed from his own manuscript. This circular that went with the petition, was as follows:—

"The necessity for petitioning against Confederation is greater this Session than ever. It is greatly to be feared that some underhand scheme is being matured to carry the measure. None of your representatives have publicly declared themselves against Confederation, although it is an avowed fact that two of them will oppose the Quebec scheme, while it is a matter of notoriety that the other is ready, if opportunity offers, to sacrifice his constituents. Inverness should, therefore, speak out to her representatives.—This is a question where no man should be allowed to stay on the fence. A member has no right to play fast and loose with his constituents on so great a question. He who is not heart and soul with us, is against us.—Petition strongly and quickly."

Mr. MILLER.—I think the hon. member will feel, before I sit down, that he has not made much out of the wonderful revelation he has just given. It is a matter of notoriety that up to a very recent period I was a determined opponent of the Quebec scheme, and on every occasion I did all I could to thwart it. But as respects the paper in question it was written weeks before the house met.

Mr. ANNAND.—No!

Mr. MILLER.—It was. I tell the hon. gentleman; it was written at the same time the petitions were sent into my own county that I pre-