

has done. A majority of the Press, for some reasons, are against us, and abusing us. We have men of character going about the country as lecturers prejudicing the minds of the people against us. The Press is stating that this Government has been guilty of fraud, and is carrying abuse and slander to every hamlet. We challenge them to prove it; and we challenge this House to put their finger upon an act of fraud, or an act of mal-administration, if they dare. Let us bring in our accounts before this House. We shrink from no responsibility, and we are glad to acknowledge our accountability to this House. We are told by my hon. friend that the Surveyor General has been here but a few days. The reason is, that affection for an indisposed daughter has called him to his home. It may be very well for my learned friend, who resides at Fredericton, to talk about the members of the Government staying here. No man would move his family to Fredericton upon the uncertain tenure of an office in the Government. My hon. friend had better wait and see whether my colleague has done his duty in that office, and not condemn him before you know what he has done. It is an attribute of a just Judge, that he does not condemn a man before he is heard. The hon. mover stands in that position, and he professes to be entirely unselfish, but I charge him with wishing to prejudice the Government. The Commissioner of the Board of Works has occupied that position for many years, and is ready, at any time, to resign the office up to the people, and has done it; and he is prepared to show that he has discharged his duty too. I think we have been treated unfairly. My hon. friend has said many offensive things to us, which I will not to him. When he talks about mean, low, and decency, I do not wish to set that gentleman up as a standard of decency, propriety, and honesty. His conduct and my conduct are before the people of the country, and let them judge, for it is not for us to sound our own trumpets. A great part of his speech is made up in setting forth that our Government had made a tremendous attack upon Her Majesty, the Queen. I cannot tell whether a tear dropped from his eye or not. Something had been said by the Government, insulting to Her Majesty. He spoke of Her Majesty's Ministers as if they were superior to the men of this country. I respect a man occupying a high position; but we must not forget, in our admiration for a great name and high sounding titles, that the holders of those titles are but men. I have, by the kindness of the people, been in communication with these men, and, while I paid them every respect, I never forgot that I was a man myself. A man is not a man who forgets himself, and will fall down and worship any man. In regard to this Minute of Council which, he says, is insulting to the Queen. When a man stands up in his place and charges the Government with deliberately insulting the Queen, we throw it back upon him. I can speak more freely about this, because I was no party to it. The Attorney-General and myself were in England, where we first saw it, and we approved of every line in it, and told, at the office of the Colonial Secretary, that it met our entire

approbation. I am prepared to take the responsibility of it. Mr. Smith then read the document, which was an answer to a despatch received from England, and which he said he did not see until it was answered.

In regard to the charge made against us of not having published the despatch. We were commanded to communicate it to the Legislature at their next meeting. We did not wait for the next meeting of the Legislature before communicating it to the public. I was surprised to hear the hon. gentleman charge this Government with not having given information. I should like to have him point out to me how many despatches had been given to the public when he was a member of the Government before the Legislature assembled. Despatch after despatch was never communicated to the people at all. This despatch was written on the 24th of June, and published in July. This despatch was the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the Union of the Colonies, and it was our duty to respectfully consider any opinion or suggestion emanating from so high a source, but at the same time we must not forget that we have a country here whose interests are not identical with those of England. I told Mr. Cardwell that the people of this country felt they were better able to judge this question than the people of England; we felt, with all the deference we had for their opinion, that we ourselves were more competent to judge in regard to this matter, for our people had grown up with the country, and we knew best what would promote our welfare. There is not a member of the Cabinet of England that has ever been to this country, and it is no disrespect for the people here to say they understand their own interests best. Mr. Cardwell said the people of England favored the Scheme; we replied we had only found two persons outside the Government that had ever read the Scheme; and we attribute a great deal of the feeling of the people of England to the fact that they assume that after Confederation is carried they will be relieved from some of their taxes; but Mr. Cardwell was not prepared to admit that was the only reason for their opinion. Intelligent men out of the Government supposed that a Legislative Union, pure and simple, was contemplated, and they expressed astonishment that men could agree to such a Scheme as the one proposed. Mr. Cardwell himself acknowledged that there were many objections to the scheme; but said it was the best scheme which could be got now. We said we did not think it right to accept a thing we did not want, because it is the best thing that could be got; we wanted to be let alone. No man denied that it originated in the necessities of Canada. The people of this country have no right to be made subservient to the political necessities of Canada. If we could get a scheme of union upon such terms as are fair and equitable, such terms as would be promotive of the welfare and prosperity of this country, I would be in favor of it, but I will not consent to ignore the prosperity of my country for the sake of relieving the political necessities of Canada. Mr. Cardwell said the scheme emanated from us. We said no. A delegation went to Canada, but we gave them no authority; and the people hurried them from power and repudiated the act. They rejected the scheme, therefore, it could

not be said that it emanated from them. My hon. friend has a great opinion of the Canadian politicians; but I can recollect the time when I tried to defend and vindicate the honor of Canadian statesmen when they were assailed by him, and were charged with being guilty of a violation of public faith. The Government had no more right to go to Canada and agree upon a scheme to change the Constitution than the Government of Great Britain has to go to France and barter away their Government. The people decided that they had proved recreant to their trust, and hurled them from power. The hon. gentleman talks about silent grumbling. I thought grumbling was a noise and not silent. He says silent grumbling was going on, and increasing in power, and would hurl this Government to the ground. When he says this House could not be dissolved if the Government were ousted. I do not say it will be, but I think the Governor has a right to appeal to the people under the Constitution. We are prepared to go before the people of this country and let them decide whether our administration has not been in accordance with their interests; and if they decide against us we will resume our occupations. We will not circle this country and hold meetings in every school-house. We are not professional politicians, and if I may be allowed to give my opinion my judgment is that the less professional politicians we have in this country the better for its welfare. It is put forth in the *Times* that not only the Cabinet are in favor of the scheme, but the whole united body of England; and thus this erroneous information is disseminated to the people of England. They suppose that the two Canadas are now about to be united for the first time, forgetting that they had formerly been under one Legislature. We are charged with being a Government of traitors, with no spirit of loyalty, that we are willing to submit ourselves to a man who is a notorious traitor; these are the sentiments put forward in the *Times*, and I ask whether these sentiments receive your approbation.

We wish to draw closer the ties which bind us to the Mother Country, although we are charged with being disloyal by those who take a different view of things to what we do. That is one of the agencies employed against us throughout the country; but I trust the intelligence of the people will resist any such delusion as that we are disloyal and want to weaken the ties that bind us to the Mother Country. We are not sympathizers with the Fenians, we are ready, ready to defend our country firesides and homes. We are assailed for not adopting sufficient precautionary measures for our defence. We are prepared to lay down every available dollar for the defence of this country, for we expect to live and die here. Why should this loyalty and love of country be peculiar to the gentlemen who occupy the other benches. We are as ready and willing to defend our country as they are; and I ask, why is it that this hon. mover of the amendment—in view of the circumstances existing now when we are in hourly expectation of danger—seeks to throw the country into utter confusion by leaving it without a Parliament at all. One of the charges made against us was, that the Legislature was called together too late, and there was a