

no matter what, unless it is to give up our birthright, we will do it, but in these despatches we have nothing to do with the Queen, we only have to do with Her Majesty's Ministers, and I will handle them as I please. I would only like to have the Colonial Secretary to face me on the floors of the House, and I would soon show him that the sooner he got out of the office he now holds the better for himself. News has arrived that he is going out of the Colonial Secretary's office. "Thank the Lord for all his mercies." He is going to be Speaker in the House of Commons, and may he never come back to his present office again, and when you write to him again tell him Needham said so. These Confederates of York, who boast so much of their loyalty, made out their Confederate ticket at the general election. Who did they have on it? First was my hon. colleague (Mr. F.) whose loyalty I do not dispute, so far as his pluck will allow him. I do not know about his being a descendant of the Loyalists, for I never could find the name of Fisher in any history of those times. The next is John A. Beckwith, then Dr. Dow, can any one dispute his loyalty. Do you remember the Trent affair, when Dr. Dow said he never would take up arms against the land of his birth. They denounce me for being disloyal, and call this man loyal, who would not raise his arm against his native country, when that country was insulting the flag we love. These charges of loyalty and disloyalty should not be put forth because we entertain these opinions, for I consider them altogether wrong. My hon. colleague (Mr. F.) has stated in regard to the Fenian excitement, that it was not right to send Her Majesty's troops to the frontier because they would desert. This was a wrong expression at a wrong time. The British troops, when facing the foe, do not desert. They are sent here to defend us and our homes, and it is not for us to turn round and tell them they would desert when they were sent to meet the common enemy of our common land. Then in regard to the despatches. There may be men of larger talents, more gigantic minds, and more towering intellects than I am, but as to more mashod or more independence I yield to no man, and no man on the other side of the water knows more of what will do my country good than I do myself. I could teach the whole British Cabinet, so far as the interests of New Brunswick are concerned. When the Imperial Parliament was called together, the answer to the speech was moved by the late Governor of Nova Scotia, the Marquis of Normandy, and he touched upon every point in Her Majesty's speech but one, that was the federation of the North American Colonies. We know he was here and knew about confederation, but while he commented upon every other sentence in the speech, he wisely and justly held his peace when he came to confederation. Does not that mean an absolute condemnation of the scheme. Lord Normanby was a man of talent, and a man that understood his position, and his silence on that point conveys this idea. (Mr. Needham then quoted from a speech by Lord Cavendish, commenting upon it and characterizing it as mere nonsense.) The hon. mover of the amendment said that the Government was unworthy of the confidence of the people of this country, because they made him feel humiliated when they sent home that dispatch to which allusion has been made. I say I

approve of it, and feel glad that we have men in this country who would write such a dispatch. Hear what Mr. Cartier, the Attorney General of Canada, said, and this was before we sent that delegation to England. He says: "Our whole intention is to lay before the Government of the mother country our position as it now is, in consequence of the breaking of the treaty by the Maritime Provinces, in order that they may bring some pressure to bear on them to bring about the Federal Union which was designed." And again: "It is of consequence, I say, that we should show the Imperial Government that Canada, which contains more than three-fourths of the population of all the Provinces on this Continent, has not failed to fulfil her part in the compromise, but that the Maritime Provinces it is who have broken their sworn engagement." It is exceedingly strange that the Governor of Nova Scotia, in his Address to Parliament, never refers to Confederation. Are Her Majesty's commands not to be obeyed in that Province? If Her Majesty sent out certain dispatches that one Government thought would be a benefit to the country, would they dare withhold them from the Legislature of the country? If they did, they would soon be hurled from power. Is it not our glory and pride that, though Colonies, and dependent upon the British Empire, we are part and parcel of that mighty nation, and are as much bound by the constitutional usages, laws and customs of that nation as if we were in London or Edinburgh, for we have the same claim to British nationality as they have. But were a Legislature or Government to refuse to receive a message from Her Majesty, it would be open rebellion. Let it not, then, be said that we are truckling to the Home Government because we, having received Her Majesty's commands to lay before the House certain dispatches, we have done so. This dispatch comes out here with Her Majesty's name appended to it. She expresses no opinion about Confederation, but commands the Governor to lay before the Legislature certain correspondence between Lord Monck and the Colonial Secretary. This is done; and I see no truckling to the British Government in the Speech. If there was, I would not sustain them. In speaking of this glorious Confederation scheme, I am reminded of an anecdote my hon. friend (Mr. Wetmore) got before the people at the last election. He says: "Suppose my son was to come here and ask me, 'Father, where is your country?' I should say I had no country; Mr. Tilley said it on the 4th of October, 1864." You see he entertains the same opinion that I do. I could not let Tilley, Cardwell or the British Government sell my country. I dissent from the opinion expressed by my hon. friend (Mr. Williston) that this is an Imperial question which they have a right to legislate upon. I say they have not, and I want them to hear it on the other side of the water. After they gave us a Constitution, no power on earth can legislate it away without our consent, and it is a wrong doctrine to propound on the floors of this free Assembly. She can only legislate for her own Imperial interest, and when she comes to interfere with our independent rights, it is an act of usurpation and tyranny that free men never will

submit to. A voice once went from this great North American Continent when tyranny was exercised by the British Ministry at home over a then free people, and we see the results. When they sought to tax the North American Colonies without giving them representation in the British Parliament, the people rose as one man, and wrested, by rebellion, or, as it is now termed, by revolution, one of the brightest jewels from the Crown of Great Britain. Let Mr. Cardwell beware, for the spirit of those men is here, and the power is here. Let him beware how he attempts to infringe upon our constitutional rights, for we would be unworthy of the name of being the descendants of the Anglo-Saxons were we to submit to such infringement of our rights. That delegation was sent home to England not only because that despatch was sent out here by Mr. Cardwell, but because the Canadian Government had sent delegates home in order that they might induce the British Government to bring a pressure to bear here. The Maritime Provinces are accused of having broken their sworn engagements. I will ask my hon. colleague (Mr. F.) for the honor of York and for the benefit of the country, did these thirty-three delegates, when they met in Canada, swear to fulfil the terms of that engagement. (Mr. Fisher.—I never heard of an oath.) You never heard of it—perhaps you were at church. Mr. Cartier says we have broken our sworn engagements. I do not know what oath they took, or whether he virtually means an oath, but it is exceedingly strange language. I was called to account, because I said at the last election, that politically Canada was corrupt. Mr. Cartier says some of the members of the House and all our delegates have violated their solemn oath and broken the treaty, and was he called to account? Our delegates could make but one treaty that would be binding: that was to call their Legislature together when they got home, and make their Scheme law without appealing to the people. That was what they violated, and it was well for them that they did violate it. Another count in the indictment is, the Government have not taken proper precautionary measures in reference to the defence of the Province. My hon. colleague (Mr. F.) said it was wrong to expend that \$30,000 in the city of Fredericton. (Mr. Fisher.—I gave no opinion about the expenditure of last year at all. I said the Government could have had the thirty days drill in the month of March on the borders of the Province, and thus complied with all the law requires, without adding to the public expenditure.) It is a bad time to drill a man just as you want to use him. Drill your men when you have the time. (Mr. Glazier.—Half of those who drilled last summer have gone out of the country.) Name me a dozen. It is just, like the cry got up that the young men were leaving the country because we have not got Confederation. Young men leave every country at all times; therefore it was nonsense to get up this cry. My hon. colleague says he holds the Government responsible for every act of the Commander-in-Chief. I do not agree with him in this. (Mr. Needham then referred to a law concern-