

right that we should be prepared to embrace the first opportunity of dealing with the question. As respects the Quebec resolutions, I have examined them myself. They were submitted to the Imperial Government, and Mr. Cardwell only takes exception to two of the resolutions—with respect to the constitution of the Legislative Council, and the pardoning power granted to the Lieutenant Governors. After having been examined by the statesmen and press of England, as well as of North America, and approved by such eminent authorities on both continents, I think these resolutions must be entitled to much respect; and therefore I cannot go to the length that some people do in respect to this scheme. Although delegates may be appointed by the Provinces to discuss the question of Colonial Union in England, the resolutions must form the platform—the basis of that discussion. I would myself prefer a legislative Union of the Provinces, but I feel that it is impracticable, in view of the fact that it is opposed by Lower Canada, with its large French population and peculiar laws and Institutions which they have retained since the time of Wolfe.—Their prejudices must be respected, and therefore I believe, from my conversation with gentlemen of influence in Lower Canada, that we cannot have a legislative Union at present, though do not know what may be in the womb of time. The first course that is to be pursued to adopt is a Federal Union, as propounded in the Quebec Scheme.

Mr. Tobin concluded by apologizing for detaining the House at so late an hour, but he could not refrain from offering some remarks on account of the importance of the question, and set down amid cheers.

In answer to an enquiry, the Provincial Secretary stated that it was the intention of the Government to bring the debate to a close that night. The session was already far advanced, and gentlemen were desirous of returning to their homes. A great deal of ordinary business yet remained to be transacted.

Mr. MILLER said:—I am desirous that we should get to the ordinary business of the House as soon as possible, and I am therefore ready to forego any observations that I might feel disposed to make. I have indeed peculiar reasons for wishing to address the House in reply to the attacks made upon me. Some gentlemen have attempted to charge me with inconsistency in connection with the question of a reference to the people at the polls, but if I could reply I would soon show the fallacy of the statements that have been made in reference to my course. I could justify my action, in this great crisis of the affairs of British North America, in a way that would be a conclusive answer to the charge made against me. If the present crisis was an ordinary one, I would be one of the last men to consent that any great question should be decided without going to the people, but I feel that to pursue such a course at the present time would be suicidal—that it would be tantamount to throwing the whole thing away. Therefore there is no man in this House who has greater reasons than myself to wish to speak to night, but in deference to the desire of the majority I am ready to forego that privilege, and allow to pass unnoticed the slanders that have been uttered against me for pursuing what I consider is a patriotic course.

Mr. ROBERTSON—I think, as we are discussing the Quebec scheme, it is due to the House and the country that every gentleman who is connected with that scheme, should explain fully the reasons that induced them to sign those resolutions. The Attorney General is the only gentleman who has attempted to deal with the question. The Quebec scheme has been discussed here, and I did not know it was to be brought up.

Hon. PROV. SEC. I have seen quite enough to prove to me that gentlemen have been speaking against time, and wish to delay this question.

Hon. ATTY. GENERAL—Gentlemen will remember that we wasted a considerable time during the morning and afternoon sessions because no gentleman was disposed to speak, and we were obliged to adjourn even before the proper hour. It has been well understood that this question was to be decided to-night.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY—I have been obliged every day, since this question has been under discussion, to move a call of the House in order to have the attendance of gentlemen.

Mr. ROSS—The members of the opposition are always here.

Mr. LOCKE—It is twelve o'clock. Surely we should adjourn.

Hon. PROV. SECRETARY—I find in the press of this country most dishonorable attempts made to stir up strife and disaffection and disloyalty in this country. We have given every opportunity to gentlemen to speak on this subject, and if they have not availed themselves of it, it is their own fault entirely. I do not think that it is right that this House should longer continue this debate, and retard the general business.

Mr. LOCKE—The Provincial Secretary is afraid of public opinion operating on this Legislature.

Dr. BROWN—I hope the government will consent to an adjournment, for I do not feel well enough to address the House.

Mr. RAY said he did not intend to occupy the time of the house on this question, but the Provincial Secretary having made some observations in reference to him and his constituents on a previous day, he felt it his duty to place before the house and the country a contradiction of the statement which had been made.

Dr. BROWN suggested that the Government adjourn the debate.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that the session being far advanced, and in view of the appeals being made to the country by the Opposition press, the debate, according to previous announcement, would be urged to a conclusion.

Mr. ROBERTSON said that the Prov. Sec., in moving the Resolution, remarked that the time for discussing the question had passed,—the manner in which the debate was forced on seemed to support the assertion.

Dr. BROWN moved that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL seconded the motion.

Hon. PROV. SEC. moved that the main question be now put.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL moved that the house adjourn.