

that it deserves if it was not sent abroad into the remotest hamlets of this country for the purpose of creating strife and rebellion among the unsophisticated and less uninformed of our people. I ask the hon. member if it was under the influence of base bribes a great number of the citizens of Halifax, when the question had been fully discussed on the public platform by the ablest men on both sides that could be found, were induced to stand forward as the avowed supporters of Union? I do not mean to say that on a question of such deep import, involving such weighty considerations, there are not high-minded men who differ from us, but I have never insinuated—never have been compelled to resort to such a despicable position as to say that they were influenced by other than patriotic motives. Then at Truro, in the heart of our agricultural counties, a large body of intelligent men, convinced by the arguments in support of Union, have stood forward as its firm friends. So at Windsor, Kentville, Bridgetown, Annapolis, Parrsboro, Amherst, Pugwash, and other parts of the country you see men who had, in year's past, been diametrically opposed to each other on political matters, standing shoulder to shoulder and co-operating for the promotion of Colonial Union.

I regret to have to allude to a gentleman who is not in this building, and I shall deal with him with greater delicacy than if he were here; but my duty as a public man compels me to sink every consideration of false delicacy in dealing with this question, and place it before my fellow-countrymen free from all disguise. I believe that the time has come when man should speak to man plainly and unhesitatingly, and when men who have taken up the position that the opponents of Union have, should be exposed to the naked gaze of the people of the Province. Need I tell the House that in the same paper which sends broadcast over the face of this country these unfounded calumnies, we see Mr. Howe over his own signature assisting the hon. member by his pen.

Before I touch upon that part of the subject, let me first call attention to the fact that the hon. member, at the close of my observations on Thursday last, addressed a challenge to me to show that he was at all responsible for ever having committed himself in any shape whatever to the Union of B. N. America; and I am here now to accept that challenge and to prove from the journals of this Legislature that if there is a gentleman in this House exposed to suspicion—if we wanted an inconsistent course of conduct on which to base an imputation—it is to be found in the career of the hon. member himself, and of the gentleman whose mouth-piece he is in this Legislature. This hon. member who now says that he has yet to hear the first argument in favour of Union, declared that "so many were the advantages of Union" that the time had arrived when it was necessary to deal with the question.

Near the close of the session of 1861, the hon. Mr. Howe, then leader of the government of this Province, moved the following resolution, which passed unanimously:—

"Whereas the subject of a Union of the North American Provinces, or of the Maritime Provinces, from time to time have been mooted and discussed in all the Colonies.

"And whereas, while many advantages may be secured by such a union, either of all these Provinces, or a portion of them, many and serious obstacles are presented, which can only be overcome by mutual consultation of the leading men of the Colonies, and by free communication with the Imperial Government.

"Therefore resolved, That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be respectfully requested to put himself in communication with His Grace the Colonial Secretary and His Excellency the Governor General, and the North American Colonies, in order to ascertain the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and the opinions of the other Colonies, with a view to the enlightened consideration of a question involving the highest interests, and upon which the public mind in all the Provinces ought to be set at rest."

The hon. member does not require to say "hear, hear," to direct the attention of every intelligent gentleman in this house and country to his shameful inconsistency. At a time when these gentlemen held the responsible position of Ministers of the Crown, we find the government of which he was a member bringing down to the house a resolution affirming in the most emphatic language that ever tongue can express the "many advantages of Union;" and in the face of that declaration you now see the hon member standing up and endeavoring to repudiate his former sentiments so unequivocally expressed. The man who pledged his character as a statesman, as a man of integrity, to the statement that the great advantages accruing from a Union of British North America should be considered by all the Provinces, now ventures to come into the House and tell us that he has "yet to hear the first argument in favour of that Union." I ask you if a public man, after an exhibition like that, is in a position to ask that the slightest weight should be given to any declaration that he may make? He may throw his base insinuations into the face of this deliberative Assembly—he may degrade himself by attempting to degrade this House, but it will avail nothing with every man who knows that the gentleman who brought here a great question of public policy, and pledged his public character to its support, now unblushingly declares that it was a farce, a delusion, and a deception, which he had been passing upon this deliberative Assembly. If I stood in such a position, I would forgive the hon. member if he attributed base and dishonourable motives as the reason why I had been influenced to adopt a course so untenable and so at variance with the public policy to which I stood pledged as a public man.

I am going now to deal with another gentleman, outside of these walls, who brought that resolution here and declared himself in the face of this country as the great exponent of Union. The action of the house upon the above resolution was followed up by Mr. Howe addressing, in his capacity of Provincial Secretary, a circular to the Governments of Canada, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, asking them to agree to a Conference for the purpose of discussing this important question of a Union of British North America. We come now to 1863, when the Hon. D'Arcy McGee visited this city to advocate this Union. I need not remind the house that a gentleman whom the hon. member for East Halifax has had the good taste to designate an "expatriated