

this great scheme which I was advocating was received as an open question, upon which all political parties could co-operate. After I had thus re-opened this question, the leader of the government to which I was opposed, re-committed himself to the principles of British Colonial Union, by moving a series of resolutions on the subject. These resolutions originating with the government, of which he was the leader, broadly stated that so manifold and so great were the advantages that would result from union, that the government asked for power from this House to have a conference for the purpose of taking it up and placing it in a position so that it might receive the solemn ratification of the Legislature of this country. Consistent with the views I had always entertained, I gave my earnest co-operation to the government on this question, and a similar course was pursued by every Conservative sitting on the benches with me. The Lieutenant Governor was requested to appeal to the British Parliament on this question. Mr. Howe having received the authority from the Imperial Government immediately, under his own hand, urged upon Canada and the other British North American Colonies the importance of dealing with the question. In a statesmanlike spirit he pointed out to them that there was only one mode in which this question could be dealt with—that the only true constitutional course was not to refer it to the people at the polls, but to the Legislature. I challenge the gentlemen opposite, instead of indulging in mere empty declamation addressed not to members inside this House but to uninformed persons outside—to point out a single authority here or elsewhere, in this province or in the mother country whence we obtained our system of government, that has ever propounded such a principle as the resolution lays down; and when they are able to do so, I shall be prepared to extend to this amendment an amount of consideration that I feel now it is not entitled to. In Mr. Howe's letter, under his own hand, he says there is only one way of dealing with the matter—that there should be a conference of the different provinces to arrange a scheme of Union—but there is not one word said about submitting the question to the people, but on the contrary, he proposed that it should be disposed of by the legislature. Mr. Howe, sustained by all his colleagues in the government, claimed for the Legislature of this country the right of dealing with this question—a principle which the hon. member for Yarmouth has himself just acknowledged as the correct one, though it conflicts with the position he has taken in seconding the present amendment. That hon. gentleman said that he was imbued with a love for British principles. He was one of the earliest and strongest advocates of colonial responsibility, and true to his principles what has he to-day told you? "*The Legislature represents the people.*" That is the reason when Mr. Young led that side of the House—when Mr. Howe led the government of the Liberal party,—when Mr. Johnston, on

this side, led the Conservative party, each and all, recognizing the fact that we enjoyed responsible government in all its completeness, on every occasion when this question came up, maintained the indisputable right of the Legislature to deal with this question. When Mr. Howe and Mr. Killam were demanding that the people should have the principle of responsible government extended to them, they affirmed the responsibility of the Ministry to the people—that the Ministry should have the people's representatives to sustain them, and that whilst they had that support, they were qualified to discharge all the duties of legislation in such a manner as they thought was consistent with the interests of the country.

The hon. member (Mr. Killam) has referred to Napoleon, and given us the only precedent that these gentlemen can adduce in support of their position. The hon. member for Guysboro', a gentleman of legal attainments—who has sat in the chair you, sir, now occupy,—who has, therefore, held the highest constitutional position in this Legislature, was obliged to sit down without having been able, from the whole range of constitutional history, to bring forward a single example in support of his course. The hon. member for Yarmouth, who has himself a pretty wide acquaintance with the constitutional system we enjoy, did at last find a precedent; but was it under the constitutional principles which it is our pride and glory to have received from England? Did he find it in Great Britain or in any portion of her colonial empire? No; but he had to travel to despotic France, where the universal popular franchise had placed the country under the heel of the most iron despotism that ever existed. All the public men in this house, Liberal or Conservative, have placed on record their deliberate sentiment that the Legislature of the country is the place where this question should be discussed and decided. But that is not all. The Duke of Newcastle was appealed to, and what did he reply? You have only to go to the journals and you will find him endorsing the same principles. Mr. Cardwell was subsequently appealed to, and you see that gentleman himself taking the same view of the question, and declaring the right of the Legislature to deal with it. The present Marquis of Normanby, reflecting the views of the government of the day as he does now his own, embodied in a state paper his opinion that the Legislature is the proper place to deal with the matter.

It was stated that if the British Government had only proper information on this question—if that dark cloud which prevented them from seeing the real facts of the case was only blown away, they would sustain the views of gentlemen opposite. Well all that has been done; I hold in my hand the statement of the late Colonial Secretary, the Earl of Carnarvon, who submitted this question with great ability to the House of Lords. But first let me ask when these gentlemen were advocating responsible government in this country, what did they tell