

my view of the subject, and it bearing deeply and well laid down, the first order of the Government, that it is necessary to ascertain first, before a decision should be given in favor of the Union, whether we have any honest men in a House of Representatives, and, therefore, I repeat that it would be imprudent to attempt to enter upon a discussion of the subject, or come to any resolution bearing upon it.

[illegible]

Hon. Col. GRAY.—Mr. Chairman, I am of opinion that the conclusion of the hon. member's remarks might have been dispensed with. I would have preferred to have taken so part in this discussion, but I am glad to hear that the hon. member will be silent. Perhaps the hon. member may not be acquainted with the merits of the case to which he has alluded. Let me, therefore, state that the difference between as hon. gentleman, not only in the fact that he is a native-born American citizen, but also in the question of a Union of the Colonies. It was quite a different matter altogether. If the hon. member who has introduced the unpleasant subject will refer to the report of the Committee on the subject, he will find that I was assigned for resigning my position as president of the Executive Council and as a member thereof. The case had nothing to do with a Union of the Colonies. It might have been a Union of the Colonies, but it was not. I differed myself personally, and also the interests and honor

of the country apart from the creation of Union. The head-  
quarters of the Opposition has shifted to two points which naturally  
are discussed by the press. One is the subject of a  
Union of the Colonies and Government, another is the  
appointment to office. I am at a loss to understand how the  
one member for East London intends to propose the views to the  
subject, perhaps he will present the objections in the House.

[illegible][illegible]

the investigation committee were requested to report to the Legislature, which I as their chairman am prepared to do, but at the close of the proceedings, until this Report can be laid before the Legislature. At Quebec, I expressed the opinion that this was a question for the people to decide; when I returned here, however, I found the statements of the Government and the Opposition in regard to the question was to be carried without an appeal to the people. I immediately wrote a letter to the different newspapers in the colony, in which I expressed my opinion, and I am glad to see that the people that the measure could not be sanctioned without an appeal to them. The hon member has referred to the conference at Montreal, and I am glad to see that the people there have adopted the plan which I thought we ought to follow out in this Colony. I understand it is the intention of the Government to bring this question before the Legislature, and to the House of Assembly, and if but a majority of that body were in favour of the scheme, that then there would be an appeal to the people. I am glad to see that the Government—nor could it be expected that abolitionists to a question.

1865.

admits they purpose to adopt; but I consider that it is their duty to submit the proposed amendments to the people, and that it will be a noble and worthy service to the people to do so. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. M. Smith

and the other members of the cabinet, for greater political stability than I am prepared to insist will probably require that I leave the White House before the expiration of my term of office. I am not at present inclined to believe that it is impossible to determine what steps it may be possible to take to secure a continuation of my administration for a further two or three years. If I succeeded in this, I should be able to continue to perform my duties as President until the end of the year 1905. I would then be able to resign the office of President and to devote myself to the study of the history of the United States. I am not at present inclined to believe that it is impossible to determine what steps it may be possible to take to secure a continuation of my administration for a further two or three years. If I succeeded in this, I should be able to continue to perform my duties as President until the end of the year 1905. I would then be able to resign the office of President and to devote myself to the study of the history of the United States.

Hon Mr COLES.—Nor to one or two others on this side of the House.

Hon Col GRAY. — Well, I am right in saying that he has been longer a member than any on the Government side of the House. We are all here, I believe, comparatively young members (Laughter). I am safe in saying, however, that the gentleman alluded to is one well entitled to the confidence of the House. I am not aware, at least, that the Government could have done better in the selection.

Hon. Mr. COLES.—I did not censure the Government for appointing delegates, but for saying that they are opposed to Confederation, and at the same time appointing a Unionist to seat in the Executive.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—It is difficult to tell what, and who, are a Unionist in this House. The hon. member who last spoke, I understand, expressed himself in favor of a Union of the Colonies. At Ottawa he certainly made a speech approving the terms of the Quebec Conference. As this is a question which the people have not made up their minds to see whether the Government could be expected to lay down any definite policy in the matter. The hon. member for Halifax has said that he would support the Government, but he has not said that he would support it fairly before the Committee, by stating that the time to discuss the question is when the Report of the delegates and the papers connected therewith have been presented to the House.

[illegible]

ment would vote to have the Report of the delegates confirmed by the Imperial Government. These are words old party lines on his mind as northern forerunners. The Last Question appears to be settled, as it is not referred into His Majesty's speech in this Session—the Session which it has been omitted for years. It would perhaps have assisted the Government had they declared their principles. As it is at present, I do not understand their policy. *Exclamation of dissent.* *Exclamation of dissent.*

[illegible][illegible]

comparisons for straighter and more honest comparisons to our neighbors, these circumstances rendered more incumbent on those who represented the colony to be just and not to subject the colony to the imputation of a breach of faith with our neighbors. As to what has been said by the hon member who has referred to the fact that the hon member has been so long in the colony, I am, with reference to that gentleman, to discuss the subject at fully and fairly as might arise under the circumstances. I have no doubt that the hon member has been in the colony as long as he has for years represented, and from her she seeks new expression of confidence, w, although comparatively small, and I am sure that the hon member will be able to give a full and just estimate of his character for candor, and when he has fully given his opinions in seeking his suffrages, they will be found to be in accordance with the views of the hon member. I trust to him. The hon leader of the Opposition finds that, the fact that the hon member has been fairly disposed of, of no small consequence, and he is left for him, and consequently he must be the quietest of the