

same ability, and all at once these gentlemen rise and propose that another scheme be resorted to and state that circumstances lead to the belief that a better scheme can be procured. I ask, then, what has brought about this change? The Prov. Secretary spoke of influences, had we not every reason to suppose that influences were at work? What these influences were it was not our business to enquire, but the suddenness of the change shewed that there were such and that they were of a strong kind. Three months ago these gentlemen were denouncing the Quebec scheme, and now they come forward and advocate a new delegation, although we know to a certainty that the new scheme will be the Quebec scheme; there may be slight variations, but in the main and substantial particulars it will be the same. Loyalty to the Crown, it has been said, requires that we should Confederates, because the Lieut. Governor has been sent here expressly to carry the measure out. No remarks in reference to that officer will be construed, I suppose, into disloyalty to the Queen, and when the Prov. Secretary spoke about the scheme being urged upon us by such impressiveness as Royal lips alone could evince, and by his mention of the appointment of Sir W. F. Williams to carry it out he invited comment. If it be declared to be disloyal to refer to the action of the Governor I will ask the House to let me refer to 1861 when an election was being run in Victoria County. In the Prov. Secretary's own organ I find this language; and although I quote from a paper that was particularly under his direction, and the very style cannot be mistaken, as he used the same or nearly the same words on the floor of the House:—

"Taking into account the position of the Government and the unscrupulous means resorted to by them we can scarcely imagine the possibility of Mr. Campbell being elected. It is now understood that Lord Mulgrave made it an express condition with the usurpers that Mr. Campbell must be unseated and Victoria carried or he would be compelled in his own defence to dissolve the Assembly." And further on he says: "Mr. Hugh Munroe was allowed by Lord Mulgrave to abandon the important duties of his office as Chairman of the Board of Works and head of the Lunatic Asylum, in order to take part in an election struggle, contrary to the spirit of the law and policy of the legislature who had removed that officer from politics. The Governor and Government having thus combined against the liberties of the people and determined to obtain a supporter from Victoria, it is not to be supposed that any means would be left untaken." He ends by saying: "If there be any man in Nova Scotia who doubts the completely partizan character of the Lieut. Governor let him ponder upon these two recent outrages for which Lord Mulgrave is directly responsible. Sending the Chairman of the Board of Works and the Sheriffs of other Counties to aid the Government in the Victoria Election." In another issue of the paper he says: "That the Chairman of the Board of Works, who could not leave the important duties of his office without the leave of Lord Mulgrave, was immediately despatched with £400 a year of the people's money in his pocket to aid the Queen's Printer who carried the bag in the Cumberland Election in

corrupting and intimidating the Electors of Victoria. We venture to assert that the history of the Colonies will be perused in vain to discover such daring innovations of the liberties of the people by any Governor. Does Lord Mulgrave think the free spirit of Nova Scotian is to be trampled out by means so flagitious and corrupt?"

If it is not treasonable language to be used towards a Governor, then nothing that has been said in this debate can be considered so. Mr. Arthur has taken strong grounds, as we believe against the interests of this country, and in declaring a Governor expressly to carry out the scheme of Confederation, we have every right to believe that Her Majesty's Government are working against our interest. There is no big disloyal in that statement, because it is well understood the Queen can do no wrong, her Ministers being responsible. I may say that it is because I believe that this scheme of annexation to Canada will drive us into annexation to the United States that I oppose it. What are the antecedents of Canada? One of the gentlemen taking a leading part in the movement, one who has lectured in various places on the subject of union, is well known to have been an Irish rebel. Many of the leading men of Canada have stood in the same position, in their conduct during the Canadian rebellion. These are the people with whom we are asked to confederate. If we yield, their Orange and Ribbon Societies and other such principles will circulate amongst us, and we would become equally disloyal. If, then, annexation is to be brought about, would it not be better to go in at once to the American Union?

Because we would thus obtain all the advantages of a separate State, while if Confederation goes on probably in a few years more we will have to go in as a mere County of Canada. It is said that trade relations are an inducement, but why cannot we obtain them without a political union? The moment Canada finds it necessary to have free trade with this Colony, she will consent to the arrangements being made, it being a sound principle that trade regulates itself. What will the position of our credit be if we unite? At this day our bonds stand higher in the market than those of Canada. Confederates with Canada, and let her carry on her canals and other works, and through the means of her large debt and great expenditure her bonds will go down and ours with them, we being a part and portion of the country. By a political union we must be absorbed and swallowed up. We will lose our identity and be subject to their will. It is well known that Nova Scotia stood by the Crown during the American rebellion. Nova Scotia was loyal then and is now, and by uniting herself to such a country as Canada she will gain nothing. We have enjoyed a Parliament of our own for a hundred years, with all the privileges that a free people could ask; we have gone on progressing, and after obtaining responsible Government we have become so free that we require nothing more in the way of independence. What will the people say to this Parliament being taken from them? We may be told that the