

connected with the relations between Great Britain and the United States, so far as British America is concerned, and on which we are authorized to take action by the Imperial authorities. We cannot know at what stage the negotiations between the Imperial Government and the United States Government may have arrived when the House meets again; but the result of the mission of those members of the Canadian Government who go home, will be submitted to the House. We shall lay before the House all that the British Government resolve upon, after hearing what we have to say as to the question of Confederation in its general aspect, and in its relation to the position it may have assumed in the other provinces. We shall then lay before the House the scheme of the local governments for the two Canadas. We shall lay before them the action necessary to be taken with reference to the School question, the matter of defence and the Reciprocity treaty. The honorable member for Cornwall gets up, and, because he finds the Government are resolved to take a firm and proper course in this matter, he chooses to throw improper and insulting remarks across the floor. But the House has learned what value is to be attached to the honorable gentleman's statements, when a little while ago it heard him—an honorable gentleman who professes to be such a patriot—stating, with reference to this scheme, in favor of which a large majority of the people of Canada had declared, that he had a "mischievous satisfaction" in seeing it checked. It was in the same spirit of causeless, senseless mischief that he got up to prophecy all sorts of improper conduct on the part of the Government. (Hear, hear.)

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—Whatever views may be entertained by the Honorable Attorney General West of my capacity, I suppose I have got along in my own way as he has got along in his way. But I think the House may thank me for having obtained at last—notwithstanding the castigation the honorable gentleman has dealt out to me, and which I hope I shall be able to survive, as I have borne up heretofore under similar avalanches of hard words about my want of judgment, want of capacity, and so forth—I think the House may thank me for having obtained at last from the Honorable Attorney General the explicit statement he has made, that the scheme is to come back again for the consideration of this House.

HON. MR. DORION—The Honorable

Attorney General West did not say that.

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—He said—if not the scheme itself—that all the arrangements connected with it, as to the local governments, the proportions we are to assume of the defence of the country, and the School question—which the Honorable Finance Minister told us, but for this untoward affair in New Brunswick, would have been submitted before this session closed—that all these things will be brought back and be submitted next session, before the Confederation scheme is finally concluded. This was not so explicitly stated in the honorable gentleman's first speech. I have been accused of being so unpatriotic as to take a mischievous pleasure in any check upon the scheme. What I said was, that I had mischievous pleasure in seeing that the honorable gentleman who had charged the Canadian Government with bad faith had been defeated and ousted from his place. And I say that, if this scheme were likely to prove for the advantage of the people of this province, no one would rejoice more than I in seeing it carried. But I have always felt, and do now feel, that the Constitution of this country can be well worked out. I have never given a vote for Federation. I have never given a vote for a legislative union.

AN HON. MEMBER—Or for annexation.

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—No; I did not sign the annexation manifesto. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I have not assented or given countenance to any scheme for changing our present Constitution, and it is not right for the honorable gentleman, because I do not choose to assent to this scheme without knowing all the details, to taunt me with being unpatriotic. (Hear, hear.) The honorable gentleman would have the House to understand that I was ignorant of the fact that this Government could not deal directly with the American Government with regard to the Reciprocity treaty. And yet in the face of this charge, he must have known that the only record which an Address of this House brought down the other day was a Minute of Council addressed to the Secretary of State by myself and colleagues, on the subject of reciprocity.

HON. MR. HOLTON—And what have honorable gentlemen opposite done since?

HON. J. S. MACDONALD—They have done nothing since, of course. We were attacked by the Hon. President of the Council because we did nothing with regard to the Reciprocity treaty.

HON. MR. BROWN—The honorable gen-