

without union. He then proposes a delegation from the Maritime Provinces to agree on a platform before submitting the matter to the British Government, but such a course I do not consider wise. I may say that I had objections to the Quebec scheme but when the great necessities to which I have referred arose these objections vanished like smoke. Before knowing the wish of the British government, I had objections to the details of that scheme, but knowing now the opinions they entertain and the offers held out to us of becoming a nationality as soon as we are able to protect ourselves these objections have been overcome. Now does the matter stand now? To obviate any objections existing it is proposed to submit the whole matter to the mother country to arbitrate between the Provinces and to form a scheme equitable to all parties. The proposition of Mr. Annand seems to me, as I have said, objectionable and would only have the effect of deferring the object in view. The scheme has been before the country for two years, and if we are to come to a decision at all it is time we should do so now. The plan proposed in the resolution appears to me to be unobjectionable while the Opposition appears in a great strait to make any suggestion, and as a last resort have proposed representation in the Imperial Parliament. The idea of such a representation I consider ridiculous. If it were granted to Nova Scotia it would have to be done to all the other Colonies, and the Crystal Palace would not be large enough to hold the Parliament. That plan was proposed ten years ago by the hon. member's order, but it fell to the ground without much attention being paid to it. Looking at the Lower Provinces, it will be seen how subject they are to an attack from the United States; and it has been the policy of that country to thwart the proposed union in order that we may be more willing to annex. It has been proved by history that small countries are always swallowed up by the larger. At this moment it is not improbable that the United States would negotiate with Nova Scotia for admitting her fish and coal trade, and the good feeling between this Province and Canada would be thereby destroyed and variances in interest and feeling created. One after another of the Colonies would by that policy be made willing to be annexed on such terms as the United States would dictate. The conduct of some members of the House appears childish in the extreme—one day they advocate sending to Great Britain for ships and men to protect our fisheries, and the next day they oppose with all their might the proposition to pay any regard to the wishes of the Government to which we send for aid. My colleague urged the Government to send vessels to protect the fisheries on the Cape Breton Coast while at the same time he is a strong opponent of Union. What do we see every day? War ships, guns and ammunition gathering round to protect us without the cost to us of a shilling, and at the same time we presume to set at defiance the demands of that Government, which gives us these means of self-protection, that we should unite for

defence. If we are able to defend ourselves without the assistance of Great Britain, let us say so; but if we are not, let us concede what the mother country desires. Going along the dock the other day, I looked at our Provincial navy, and the whole affair seemed utterly contemptible. There was the *Daring*, with a two-pounder to protect our harbours and fisheries, and yet we felt quite conceited and clamour against Confederation. My idea is, that instead of awaiting the action of New Brunswick, we should take the lead. Ours is the most populous Province of the two and should set the example. I think the country should be made aware of the principles of those members who oppose the measure. The hon. gentleman, whose name has been introduced into the discussion, ever since his return, has been boldly proclaiming annexation sentiments in the streets and in the lobby of the House. Gentlemen holding such views are getting more and more bold. The history of small countries has been that from animosities they have been set to fight against each other until they have been so weakened as to be unable to present a front to the common enemy. So it will be with us if we do not take steps to strengthen ourselves and to become one people. As I have already said, I think the Government should take such steps as will shew the other Provinces that we are not backward in this matter.

#### SPEECH OF MR. LOCKE.

MR. LOCKE said:—It was correctly remarked the other day that the opponents of Confederation are in an unfortunate position in having nine lawyers and a doctor worth three more, opposed to us. We cannot be expected to exhibit the same ability that will be displayed upon the other side, but we stand here backed by the strong opinions of our constituents.—Those opinions we believe to be correct and sound, and we feel that the principles which we maintain are correct. This is a question of the deepest moment to the country, we are bartering away our rights and privileges if we hand over this fine Province of ours to Canada, and I feel disposed to say,

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,

Who never to himself hath said,

This is my own my native land."

In adopting this scheme we are giving our country to Canada to be swallowed up with grand schemes and projects of aggrandisement, to a colony notably disloyal. Coming as I do from a county whose inhabitants have come from loyalist stock, a country settled by men who have sacrificed their best interests for the sake of British connection, I feel at liberty to express my opinion freely and without fear of the charge of disloyalty. The question of Confederation has been before the country now for two years, and its aspect has recently been materially changed. What brought about this change? We saw gentlemen on both sides of the House last Session exceedingly hostile to the scheme, but a change has come over the spirit of their dreams. We had the hon. member for Richmond advocating one side of the question with all the eloquence at his command, we had the member for Lunenburg, Mr. McDouneil, taking the same side with the