

Mr SINCLAIR.—I said that the people should view the proceedings with caution.

Had the Government the intention to be drawn from the House of Representatives? I have stated, and the very essence of the case shows the propriety of putting the question before the people. If it were introduced as a Government measure, that very fact would have a tendency to induce the opinions of some on the matter which should be divided of all party views and efforts. I have heard no arguments to deny my opinion that it is impossible for the Government to do so. I view it calmly from its bearing. We shall be doing justice to ourselves and the people, to whom it is due that it should not be made the subject of party discussion. Part opposition will be invited for discussion when the correspondence shall be submitted, and the interests of the people will be better served by treating the subject irrespectively of party.

Hon Mr POPP.—As to the objection raised by the members from Prince Edward that the Government were not justified in despatching delegates to Canada without the previous sanction of the House, I may inform them that Mr Broderick did not at the request of the Governor of the Governor-General, who, as such, is the Governor of this Island. With the request of course, the Secretary, the Hon Governor felt it to be his duty to comply. The Government, I consider, is the Executive Committee of this House, which is not in Session, and must carry on the public business of the country. The desire of the leader of the Opposition to embarrass the Government by this irregular discussion is easily seen, and his motives are duly appreciated; but he may as well wait till the papers are laid before us.

Hon Mr LAIRD.—It is hard to say when the proper time will be to consider this question. As it has now come up in the Address, though there are no other papers before the House on the subject, I bid that this is a proper time to give a right vote upon it. I believe the pretty general opinion throughout the country is, that the Government were a little rash in appointing one to a seat in the Executive who had expressed himself so strongly in favor of Union. The Government are bound, not according to the well-understood wishes of the people, and in this case, they have failed, consequently I cannot give them my support. Supposing the Government be called upon to send delegates to England to assist in preparing a measure relating to the question for the Imperial Parliament, if the Executive be composed of men in favor of Confederation, they will probably send Home, red-bait Unionists. The Government have not consulted their own friends in regard to the appointment in question, and they have acted contrary to the wishes of the people, therefore I will oppose them.

Hon Mr KELLY.—Mr Chairman, in the Session of 1863, when the subject of this contemplated Union was for the first time mooted here; and last year when the question of the appointment of delegates was before us, I expressed my decided opposition to the whole scheme, and I have seen nothing yet to induce a change of opinion. It may suit some gentlemen in the Island who can afford to remove to Canada to advocate the merging of our political institutions into those of that country. It has been said by some hon members that the present is not the proper time to discuss the matter, as the paragraph in the address contains no expression of opinion upon it. Such may be the case, but I well recollect that when it was sought to effect the Union of my native country with Great Britain, the wily Lord Castlereagh used precisely the same arguments,

and although at that time he was defeated by an overwhelming majority, the next Session of the Irish House of Commons found him with his plans matured. History and corruption had time to do their work, and did it but too effectually. I trust that hon members of this House will not follow his example, or meet the fate which overtook the betrayer of the rights of his country.

Mr HOWAT.—I suppose this discussion has been brought pretty near to a close, but I wish to offer a few remarks. I have opposed this Union of the Colonies from the first. When the question of Union with the other Maritime Provinces came up last Session, I objected to the appointment of delegates, but was told that it was only a matter of courtesy, and that these appointed were not to agree to any scheme, but only to report. Now, however, the case has assumed a different form. It has been said that this should be an open question; if so, I suppose I may be allowed to differ with those whom I generally support. If Confederation takes place it will effectually do away with parties, for our province as a local Legislature will amount to little or nothing. I wish to oppose Union in every phase and shape in which it can present itself, without considering the interests of my party; I must stand by the country. I believe the appointment, which has been so often referred to was an inadvisable one; however much I may respect the gentleman in question, I think it was imprudent to appoint him; considering that he had declared himself decidedly in favor of Union. If, however, it can be ascertained that he will not hereafter advocate Union I shall be satisfied; but not otherwise, for I wish the Government which I support to be entirely composed of anti-Union men. I am in favor of the amendment; though I regret that a case has arisen in which I should oppose my party, yet I feel that this time I must do it.

Mr DUNCAN.—I wonder where we are to go to find an anti-Union party; it is not to the Opposition, for some on that side are strongly in favor of Union. I think it is quite out of place to discuss this question now, and for my part I will oppose the amendment. I shall not fail, however, at the proper time, to state my strong objections to the proposed scheme of Confederation.

Hon Mr COLLES.—I did not expect that the hon member for Murray Harbor would support my resolution—he could not be supposed to agree with any person of liberal principles. Perhaps we cannot get an Anti-Union party in this House; but let us take the matter to the country, and probably then the hon member for New Glasgow, or the hon member for Tryon may be called upon to form a Government. I am sorry that I had to differ with the late leader of the Government, since he exerted himself to procure my appointment on the delegation.

Hon Col GRAY.—When did the hon member differ with me, for I never heard him express any difference of opinion at the Conference?

Hon Mr COLES.—I stated at the Conference when they refused my proposition with respect to the Lord of this Colony, that they might as well strike Prince Edward Island out of the constitution altogether.