

provisions of the Municipal Corporation Bill required that it should be submitted for every man to vote upon, favorably or otherwise, and I therefore maintain that we have an illustrious precedent for the course that we suggest. But if there were no precedent, I might properly introduce here what was improperly introduced the other day by the Att. General, a reference to the law of necessity—I would say, here is a case the like of which has never occurred, and for which there can be no precedent,—here is an unparalleled case, and therefore we are justified in establishing a precedent. We can find no precedent for the attempt to subvert and destroy the constitution of the country, and hence I think that in this special emergency we are not merely at liberty but are abundantly and imperatively called upon to take that course which will best meet the necessities of the case and promote the interests of the people. It lies not upon us who oppose this measure, but upon those who insist on its passage, to prove the necessity uncalled for by the people for taking away the institutions of the country. Sir, I was astonished when I was told yesterday that in addition to all the arguments that could be adduced in favor of Confederation the circumstance that all the lawyers and trained politicians were in favor of it should be a reason for the adoption of the scheme without any appeal to them. Sir, I protest against such a doctrine, and the people will protest against it, and I fancy I can hear them say—"It is all very well for the lawyers and trained politicians to be in favor of the measure, they are those who are to be most largely benefitted by the change—these are the men who are to be the 'upper ten.'" That is something like the language that they will use, nor will it be inappropriate. But, sir, it is not for lawyers or for trained politicians that we are to act in this place. This is the people's house; their interests must be the polar-star of every man's action here, and this measure is to affect those interests for weal or for woe for ever.

Mr. S. McDONNELL:—I am glad we have one honest lawyer in the house.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL continued. After the course which the hon and learned member has taken, nothing he can say will at all affect my sensibilities, and I think his remarks will pass with little notice at the hands of every one else. But, sir, while he has suggested to my mind this observation upon the course which he has pursued, I will not suffer myself to be hurried into a charge against any member of being a traitor. I shall pursue the course which my conscience suggests, and leave it to others to settle their own course before the same tribunal. I hope the verdict may give the same satisfaction as that which I am now experiencing. I have referred to the necessity for an appeal to the people, and if I stood alone, I would insist on the propriety and the justice of that cause. But, sir, we have been told that because Fenianism is rampant, and because the Reciprocity Treaty has been abrogated, we should go into Confederation. Before the Re-

ciprocity Treaty existed we were not confederated, and I have too much faith in the industry and enterprise of our people to imagine that the repeal of that treaty will materially impede our progress. As regards Fenianism, I am at a loss to see the connection between that subject and this. If New Brunswick be threatened, does any one feel it to be necessary to confederate for greater security? In view of that state of things, I ask myself—Does the British Government intend to retain these Provinces or not? If they do, New Brunswick is safe—Confederation will not make it safer. If the United States desired to have possession of British North America, and Great Britain be unwilling to defend us, is Confederation going to save us? We have heard the story about defences. Well, I am but a young soldier, but I cannot understand how on that branch of the subject any argument can be founded. British North America is now a portion of the British Empire, the people of these colonies owe fealty and allegiance to the British Crown, and while that allegiance is given and that fealty paid, a corresponding duty rests upon the British Government to afford protection to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, on the same ground as that on which they protect Kent, Surrey, or Middlesex, or any other county of the British Isles. Sir, I assert that Great Britain is not only bound but is disposed to maintain her authority in these countries, and to afford us protection as British subjects. As a Nova Scotian and as a British subject dwelling upon British soil, I shall be prepared at all times to sanction any means of co-operation with the British government to maintain in these colonies the integrity of the British Empire.

It has been said, and truly said, that Confederation will not give us a man or a pound more than we have now. No one in this house has argued the question in a military point of view, but even arguing it in that aspect nothing can disturb the fact to which I have referred, that we would have no greater power than now, and it is a libel on the British Government to say that if we do not adopt the scheme we will be deserted. No sir, I believe that England would no more desert us in the hour of extremity than a parent would desert his child in the hour of danger. It is not the desire or intention, it has never been the policy of the British government to deal with these Provinces in any other manner than comported with the wishes of the people. Reference has been made to the despatches of Mr. Cardwell,—I wish that statesmen were here on the floor of this House to-day to hear, as he would, that it is the desire of a number of members, and of the majority of the people of this country that the question should be submitted for their consideration at the polls. Were he here I feel safe in saying that as a British statesman charged with the protection of Her Majesty's subjects, he would not hesitate to command the government of this country to submit the measure to the people. The British government, as I have said, have no other interest in dealing with us than to further our wishes. Let us go