

culty of the position ; he acknowledged that a speedy remedy was required in order to prevent a collision between Upper and Lower Canada ; he was prepared to seek out means of remedying these evils ; but now that he is in opposition he no longer sees the difficulties ; the position is a good one, the proposed changes are no longer necessary ; and, in order to oppose them, to what length is he not prepared to go ? The honorable member uses his influences over a respectable old man, who heretofore had remained apart from political struggles ; he persuades him that his country is on the brink of an abyss ; he tells him how necessary and what an imperative duty it is for all good citizens to unite for the defence of our institutions, our language, our usages, in fact our very national existence. And the good old gentleman tears himself from his beloved retirement and becomes the willing instrument of a factious opposition. I might have believed in the sincerity of the honorable gentleman (Hon. Mr. DORION) if I had heard him admit that he had changed his opinions and say that he had formerly entertained certain views on the difficulty of our position and the necessity of providing a remedy. But no, he comes to us with the assurance to declare that he has never changed his opinions, and yet the journals and debates of the House are before him to convince him of the contrary. What a position. (Hear, hear.) The honorable gentleman added—"The people are satisfied with their present position." Since last session more than twenty counties have been called upon to elect new representatives, and they have all, one perhaps excepted, elected supporters of the Government and of the scheme which is now under discussion. And yet the honorable member tells us, with an appearance of good faith which I shall not animadvert on now, that the people are satisfied with their position ; and lastly, the honorable member for Hochelaga says—"Confederation is direct taxation." The honorable gentleman is the very last who ought to have raised this objection. Does he forget that, in 1863, one of the members of his Government, the Honorable Minister of Finance, when he brought down his budget, declared to this House that the time had arrived when it had become necessary to accustom the people to direct taxation. What possible effect, then, can this objection have in the mouth of the honorable gentleman, other than to afford a still further proof of the absence of good faith which he has displayed in the discussion of this important measure of the Federal union ?

Besides, the present Honorable Minister of Finance, in his learned speech on this question, has given a most lucid explanation of the question of the finances, and has made it clear to us that the local governments will receive more than they will require to meet their expenditure. Lower Canada, whose expenditure, including the interest on her share of the debt remaining charged to Canada, will amount to \$1,237,000, will receive from the Central Government eighty cents a-head, making \$900,000, which, added to its other revenues, will make its annual receipts amount to \$1,440,000, shewing an annual excess of revenue over expenditure amounting to \$200,000. The objection of the honorable member is only a pretext, which ought not to shake the confidence of the most timid. The honorable gentleman denies the correctness of the calculations of the honorable member for Sherbrooke, it is true, but in a matter of such vast importance, the House and the country have a right to something more than a mere denial. Let honorable gentlemen on the other side of the House prove the error of the Honorable Minister of Finance, and then, and not before, they may hope to bring conviction home to the friends of the scheme. I now come to the argument of the honorable member for Lotbinière. Since I first took my seat in Parliament, I had learned to esteem that honorable gentleman ; his conduct, always so honorable, and the good faith which appeared to govern his whole conduct as a legislator, had inspired me with the highest respect for him. But what was my surprise to see him condescend to the part which we have seen him play on the occasion of his speech on the great question now before the House ! To act a comic part, to make a buffoon of one's self, and, at the same time, discussing a scheme for a new Constitution which, it is alleged, will obliterate a whole people, and reciting from history all the evils which democratic doctrines have brought upon the human race. What a contrast ! How courageous ! And the *Montagne* applauded the recital by the honorable gentleman of all the scenes of horror, discord, revolution and civil war which democratic principles had brought about in all those parts of the world in which these notions had prevailed. What impudence ? May the people, Mr. SPEAKER, profit by the lesson. The honorable member for Lotbinière has told us that the Federal system carried in itself a principle fatal to its existence, and that all confederations died of consumption. Then