

because of its frightful cost and because it does bring within the Federation the other British American Provinces ! (Continued cheering.)

MR. POWELL—Who wrote that document ?

HON. MR. BROWN—I cannot exactly say who did the composition ; but will not my honorable friend from Chateauguay (Hon. Mr. HOLTON) permit me to ask if his hand is not discoverable in it ? (Hear, hear, and laughter.) If so, he well may be proud of it, for it is a masterly exposition.

HON. MR. HOLTON—Will my honorable friend accept it as an amendment to his scheme ?

HON. MR. GALT—No ; ours is better than that !

HON. MR. BROWN—I come now to the great meeting of the Reformers of Upper Canada, known as the Toronto Convention of 1859, and at which 570 delegates were present from all parts of the western province. Here are the two chief resolutions :—

5. *Resolved*,—That in the opinion of this assembly, the best practicable remedy for the evils now encountered in the Government of Canada is to be found in the formation of two or more local governments, to which shall be committed the control of all matters of a local or sectional character, and some joint authority charged with such matters as are necessarily common to both sections of the province.

6. *Resolved*,—That while the details of the changes proposed in the last resolution are necessarily subject for future arrangement, yet this assembly deems it imperative to declare that no Government would be satisfactory to the people of Upper Canada which is not based on the principle of representation by population.

Here we have the very essence of the measure now before us for adoption—deliberately approved of by the largest body of representative men ever assembled in Upper Canada for a political purpose ; and yet we are to be told that our people do not understand the question, and we must go to them and explain it, letter by letter, at an immense cost to the country, and at the risk of losing the whole scheme ! (Hear, hear.) But let us see what followed. A general election was ordered in 1861—there was a fierce contest at the polls—and the main question at every hustings, was the demand for constitutional changes. The result of that contest was the overthrow of the CARTIER-MACDONALD Ministry and the formation of the MACDONALD-SICOTTE Administration in its room. But so bitter had been the struggle for and against constitutional changes, and so clearly defined were

party-lines upon it, that it was found impossible to construct that Government without a distinct pledge that it would resist every motion made upon the subject—

HON. MR. HOLTON—Did you recognize the propriety of that course ?

HON. MR. BROWN—No, indeed, I did not. I but cite the fact to show how thoroughly the whole question has been agitated, and how perfectly its bearings have, for years past, been understood. Well, sir, mark what followed. One short year had not passed over the heads of the MACDONALD-SICOTTE Ministry before they tottered to their fall—and so repugnant to the House and to the country was their conduct on the constitutional question, that they dared not appeal to the country until they had changed their avowed policy upon it, and replaced the men who had forced upon them the narrow policy of the year before, by gentlemen understood to be more in favor of constitutional changes. The Government (MACDONALD-DORION), so reconstructed, went to the country in 1863, but in the year following it, too, fell in its turn, simply because it did not deal boldly with the constitutional question—

HON. MR. DORION—We had the support of all who were in favor of the question.

HON. MR. BROWN—Indeed, you had not.

HON. MR. HOLTON—We should have fallen if we had attempted to deal with it.

HON. MR. BROWN—I entirely deny that ; had you pursued a bold policy upon it you might have been in office up to this hour. (Hear, hear.) Well, sir, the MACDONALD-DORION made way for the TACHÉ-MACDONALD Administration—but it, too, soon fell by a majority of two, simply because it did not deal with the constitutional question—

A VOICE—Oh, oh !

HON. MR. BROWN—My honorable friend cries “oh, oh,” and I am perfectly amazed at his doing so. I am about to offer my honorable friend the most complete proof of the correctness of my statement—proof so conclusive that if he does not accept of it as such, I do not know how he can be convinced of anything. In one single day the TACHÉ-MACDONALD Administration, by taking up the constitutional question boldly, turned their minority of two into a majority of seventy. (Loud cries of hear, hear.) Could anything prove more unanswerably than this the deep hold this question has on the public mind, and the assured confidence of the members of this House that their constituents understand its whole