

that reproach can hardly come from men who by their conduct have brought about this state of feelings. The men who are open to the charge are those who are forcing it on the country. I have said that the country was peaceable, loyal and happy before,—if it is not so now it is because of this measure, and for no other reason whatever. The amendment suggests a solemn protest against the action of the delegation. For the reasons I have mentioned, I think the house should concur in that protest. The delegates have exceeded their authority: they were delegates from the house for the purpose of preparing a scheme, not for converting that scheme into an Act of Parliament, while we had within our own borders a legislature with a right to exercise its own judgment, and one that has never done aught to induce an abridgement of its rights. I need hardly repeat that I desire to see the scheme of Union submitted to the people. That is the view that I have always maintained and expressed, and I should view with sorrow rather than with anger, the adoption of any other course for I believe that any other course would endanger the happiness, the loyalty, and the best interests of our people. It is not my intention now to press upon the House any other view than the necessity which exists for preserving this Province in a peaceful and happy condition, and I think it is our bounden duty to adopt the course which I have urged. I wish before detaining the House further, to hear reasons why that course should not be pursued. I ask those gentlemen who stand in the positions of guardians of the public liberties why they are not prepared to submit the measure to the people? Why this haste? What is the pressing necessity? The more the subject is discussed, the more averse are the people to its features. During the past summer the feeling was comparatively mild and moderate to what it is to-day, and the reason was that in the trustfulness of their hearts the people never could have supposed that a measure so seriously to affect them would have reached the point it has without their voice being heard in a constitutional manner. But the awful note has lately sounded in their ears telling them that their fate is approaching, that their constitution is about to be a thing of the past, that their liberties are to be abridged for ever, and they now feel excited if not enraged. If that be their feeling they have just cause for it. Men in whom they trusted—men who held their positions and ate their bread by the breath of the people—these were the men who stood between them and their liberties and sought to cut off their freedom forever. It is a painful thing to receive an injury at the hands of a friend—it is a galling thing to receive the blow of ingratitude, and that is the state of feeling existing in the breasts of the people of this country. They are indignant that the men whom they elevated to power for other and noble purposes, should have been the instruments of the annihilation of their freedom. What should be the feelings of a representative? There should be some regard for the feelings of the men who sent him here and elevated him to so honorable a position, and if any among us should disregard these feelings, the day cannot be distant when their consciences

will be grievously disturbed. I trust none of these individuals will suffer from the remorse which such considerations will induce; for my part I shall have the satisfaction of having in a humble way asserted the rights of the people on this question. I think that the friends of England and the friends of Nova Scotia should require and acquiesce in no other course than that which I have advocated, for he is no friend to this country and an enemy to England who would force this measure on the necks and hearts of an unwilling people.

Mr. PRYOR, hear, hear.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL continued:—The hon. gentleman says hear! hear! I wish he would hear and act in conformity with the views I expressed. What placed him in the position he occupies? It was the voice of the people of this city of the metropolis, and for what? To destroy the rights and sacrifice their liberties? No, not for that, and when he next appeals to his constituents for their suffrages if ever he ventures to do so, I hope they will tell him so. He was placed here to preserve the the constitution of the country and to perpetuate its loyalty, and I hope he will be told in a voice of thunder that he is one of those who have forfeited the pledges which he gave. I trust that gentlemen will carefully consider this amendment, they will see that it contains no idea that it is not founded in justice and truth, and is in all respects entitled to their concurrence and support.

Speech of Mr. Killam.

Mr. KILLAM:—I rise for the purpose of seconding the amendment which has just been moved by the hon. member for Guysboro, with whose remarks I fully agree. It is well known in this house that I do not make any pretensions to the eloquence of other gentlemen, but the views I entertain on this question are the result of deep conviction. I may not be able to express these views as I would wish, but I feel them very strongly. The hon. gentleman has referred to the recent delegation and the manner in which the authority given by this house has been exceeded, but he hardly went deep enough into that matter in my opinion. He must recollect that when the Provincial Secretary was pressing his resolution upon the house, last session, he referred some years back for the purpose of strengthening his argument. He stated that the leaders of the political parties in this Legislature had moved resolutions in favour of this scheme of Union, but did he ever hear of a single resolution that had not coupled with it the condition that the question would be referred back to the Legislature, and that means the people. Mr. Johnston, Mr. Young, Mr. Howe were all quoted in illustration of his argument, but can he assert that the question was ever treated by them in a practical point of view. The hon. gentleman has in England quoted these gentlemen as the advocates of this scheme and tried to make the public men of that country believe that the people of Nova Scotia are in favour of a Union of these provinces with Canada. These delegates were to go and see if they could agree on some measure that would suit the members of