

time would gradually alter their tone, and at last willingly adopt the change.

But I ask, sir, where is the necessity for this indecent haste? Haste in a two-fold sense. Haste, not only in cramming this measure down the people's throats without their consent and against the will of a vast majority, but haste in bringing this debate to a close to-night, and thus stifling the voice of free discussion. Nothing can be more arbitrary than the conduct of the government. They can fritter away days and weeks on useless and frivolous matters, but on the great question, whether Nova Scotia shall retain her rights and liberties—her very existence, the Provincial Sec'y denies us an hour. I ask, sir, where is the necessity for action? Why not remain as we are? What is the emergency? Is it, because, as the Provincial Secretary has admitted, the government and union party in this house are afraid to hear the voice of the people? I thank the Pro. Sec'y for the admission—it is candid, and explains his position. The emergency, Mr. Speaker, is not the emergency of the people, it is the emergency of the rulers of the people. Why is it that they will not refer this measure, this most momentous of all measures that ever came before this Legislature, to the people whom it most concerns? Simply because they dare not. Do you suppose, sir, can any man imagine, if the government had a ghost of a chance they would hesitate to appeal to the hustings? The voice of the people and the voice of their representatives are stifled, because they know it is against them. Now, sir, this act may be perpetrated, the rights of the people of Nova Scotia may be trampled on, and ignored, but I apprehend this will not be the end of the contest. The voice of the people though silenced for the present will make itself heard. I mistake much if the free and intelligent people of Nova Scotia will quietly submit to be crushed and overriden—I mistake much if the honest and enlightened farmers of Kings County will quietly submit to it. And when I speak of Kings County I mean not only South Kings, which I have the honor to represent, but North Kings which is, I have every reason to know, equally strong in its condemnation of this measure. I do not hesitate to declare it as my opinion in the presence of the members for North Kings that three-fourths of the electors of that district are opposed to it, and are only waiting for an opportunity to sweep it and its authors away together. My learned friend from North Kings, Dr. Hamilton, says he has learned from a correspondent in Kings that Mr. Howe's letters have had the effect of cementing the Conservatives in that county. I agree with him that the minds of all parties, with few exceptions, concur in one point—in denouncing union with Canada. I have just returned from a visit home, and find the anti-union feeling stronger than ever.

Several of my pro-confederate neighbours said to me, they would like confederation but not without the test of the people's approval.—Dr. Hamilton also disputes the reported issue of the Canning meeting, now I have it from the most reliable authority, authority that the learned member himself will not question, that against one of the resolutions carried, there was but one vote, and against the other only three or four. Canning is in the Doctor's im-

mediate vicinity and a large number of his constituents reside there. The learned member referred also to his provable retirement from public life. I advise him to do so by all means. He certainly could not do a more prudent thing. I should be glad also to hear my friend and colleague Mr. Bill give his opinion on the resolutions before the house. On a question of such transcendent proportions and magnitude, a question truly of life and death, no man should be content with giving a silent vote. I conclude by imploring the house to let the people be heard at the polls.

DR. HAMILTON:—My observations merely referred to North Kings, I did not refer to South Kings, and I am prepared to-morrow to resign my seat, if Dr. Brown will contest it with me. With regard to the meeting at Canning, I have four letters in my pocket referring to it; one says there were sixty persons present; another says eighty; another says that the number was one hundred, and a good many of them were boys. I should like to ask Dr. Brown who instigated the meeting? I think the suggestion came from a gentleman not far from me. As to South Kings, the hon. member knows that I have stood at the polling places pleading for him before he chose to change sides. I have in my possession a letter from one of the first men in King's, and he says he hopes the House will pass Confederation; another letter is from a person who says he would like to see the American flag floating over the Province, and perhaps such sentiments as his had a good deal to do with the Canning meeting.

DR. BROWN:—I accept the learned member's challenge to meet him at North King's. It will give me great pleasure to vacate my seat to-morrow, if he will do the same for that purpose. It will be a pleasant and innocent way for him to learn the opinion of his constituents. I don't know who the learned member's correspondents are. D. R. Eaton, Esq. was mine, and the Doctor himself will agree with me that this gentleman is entitled to credit and respect. I did not, as he insinuates, suggest the meeting at Canning—in that my learned friend has only made a bad guess.

MR. KILLAM:—It is well known, as was admitted by the Pro. Sec. himself, that the government do not possess the confidence of the country and what then is our position? The government, in the face of this fact, bring forward a measure to change our entire constitution, and call upon members to support them. What would the leader of the House of Commons do if he were obliged to make such an admission? The observations of some gentlemen who have spoken to-night I think will give the government a lesson that cannot soon be forgotten.

MR. McKAY said:—I intend to adopt a different course from that pursued by my colleague on this question, and I will state a few of the reasons which influence me. Last winter I was opposed to the Quebec scheme; this session a resolution has been introduced to modify that scheme in its details. If a change has become necessary for our security, let us form our in-