

to refer) receded from it. The Government, by thus taking care that the parliamentary opposition or minority should be fairly represented at the Conference, showed that they had no intention of making the Confederation question a party one. The Governments of the other Provinces acted in the same fair and impartial manner; and men of every party and of the most conflicting political opinions were brought together in the Conference, for the purpose of considering whether measures could not be devised for the greater security of our free institutions, for the consolidation of British power in these Provinces, and for the more thorough establishment and perpetuation therein of the ennobling and improving principles of the British Constitution. Well, indeed, might the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Coles) say of the result of that Conference, as he did at Ottawa, that "he thought they (the Delegates) had reason to congratulate themselves upon the labours of the Conference. That thirty-three men, representing the various political opinions of six different Provinces, could have assembled, and so amalgamated their opinions as to agree upon a Constitution, suited for that great Confederation, was something, he believed, such as the world had never seen before, and showed that the Delegates were worthy of the position they held. He said this, although there was no man more disappointed than himself with regard to some parts of that constitution; but, by mutual concessions, they had arrived at a result which they could all agree in supporting and submitting to the people; for he held that no must be submitted to the people. They must not differ if on the people; they must endeavour to show them what is for their benefit, and thus induce them to accept it." The harmonious and happy result of the Quebec Conference had, by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, been very justly attributed, in a considerable measure, to liberal and wise concessions and compromise of individual opinions on the part of the several Delegates engaged in that Conference. He himself, as well as that hon. gentleman, had, for the sake of harmony and the general good, foregone some of his own opinions in that important Convention. For instance, he was strongly impressed with the opinion that, as in the Senate of the United States, all the members of the Confederation should be equally represented in the Upper House—that the greatest in territorial extent and population should not, in that branch of the Federal Legislature, be allowed a greater number of representatives, than any of the smaller or less populous sections; and, in the Conference, he urged his opinion to that effect; but, finding, from the strong opposition which was made to it, that it be continued to press it, his doing so would not only retard the progress of the Convention towards a solution of the great problem under their consideration, but might even, to some considerable degree, mar the result of their deliberations, he forbore to insist upon it. Concession and compromise were necessary, not only to the formation, but to the good and efficient working of every system of free government. They were not only necessary in the formation and maintenance of the governments of free states, but in that of every association for general purposes or mutual benefit; in that of banking companies, and all other associations; nay, even in domestic government; for it was well known that peace and harmony of action could never prevail, or be secured in any family, independently of

manual concessions on the part of husband, wife and children. The privileged Confederation, continued the hon. and learned gentleman, had not been taken up as a Government question in any of the Provinces; neither would it, in any of them, have been so brought forward without a gross violation of constitutional principles; for not one of the Governments then existing in the Provinces had attained its position through the support of a parliamentary majority, elected by the people directly for the purpose of either maintaining the question of Confederation, or of deciding upon it in any way. He then, at some length, favourably reviewed the proceedings concerning the question which had taken place in Nova Scotia; and, in noticing the imputations of dishonesty and treachery which Nova Scotian anti-Confederates had so freely thrown out against the Hon. Mr. Tilley, for the course which he had pursued with respect to it, he fully justified the conduct of that hon. gentleman, and declared that, notwithstanding all the base calumnies which had been directed against him, there was not a blot upon his escutcheon. He (Hon. Mr. Halliday) then entered into a pretty full recapitulation and review of the parliamentary and government proceedings, for and against Confederation, in New Brunswick; and concluded that part of his speech by saying, that the discharging of this Assembly, on that question, in that Province, by Governor Gordon, in opposition to the views of his Cabinet, although an extreme exercise of the prerogative with which, as Her Majesty's Representative, he was clothed, had yet been justified by the result. That arbitrary and unconstitutional proceeding, as it had been called, of Governor Gordon, had been commented upon with very great severity by our Island anti-Confederates; but he begged leave to remind them that a similar gubernatorial proceeding here, some years ago, had, by some of those anti-Confederates, been lauded and extolled as an act of most dignified, patriotic, and constitutional independence. He alluded to the time when Governor Bannerman, in opposition to, and in contempt of, the advice of his Council—although that Council was sustained by a large and respectable majority of the parliamentary representatives of the people—dissolved the Assembly, and called a new election. The result, in that case, having proved quite satisfactory to those who had laboured to secure the Governor to exercise the prerogative in so unusual a manner, great were their exultation and rejoicing thereof, and scarcely ever had it been referred to since, but the recollection of it had, called forth from them a jubilate peal of their bells. When further comment upon the recent changes in political sentiments, in New Brunswick, which were attributable to the agitation of the Confederation Question in that Province, the hon. and learned gentleman pronounced the highest eulogium upon the Hon. Mr. Wilcox, whose character, he said, was above suspicion, and who, in the noblest and most disinterested spirit of patriotism, seeing that, if the people of those Provinces desired to retain their free institutions, to preserve to themselves, and transmit to their posterity, the principles and blessings of Britain's glorious Constitution, and to have her glorious and protecting flag to continue wave over them, they must strengthen their lately existing fraternal relations by the stronger and firmer bonds of a federal union; he had cast from him the trammels of office, had resigned his seat in the Cabinet, and nobly stood forward as one