

newspaper. He would like his bon-
friend to shew the book where it is laid
down that, if a man is in doubt, it is un-
gentlemanly to say he doubts; and if a
new charge than that could be brought
against him, then he should go through
life without being thought by very many
as a "low fellow." It was said that the
reference to the newspaper paragraph was
extraordinary, but then the circumstances
were extraordinary. The hon. member
on his left had said that at one time he
did not believe the question of Union
came from the Queen, and had since
found out that it did. He thought it
was rather hard to find out what had
never occurred, and on this question he
wished to say a few words. It was pro-
bable that Her Majesty had never seen
the dispatch which was sent from
this Government to Mr. Cardwell, nor that
from him to us. But however that might
be, it was certain that the question of
Union did not at first come from the
British Government, or that the so-called
delegates had any "just authority" to
confer on the question of Confederation.
In the report of the correspondence be-
tween Nova Scotia and Mr. Cardwell, on
the Union of the Maritime Provinces, in
a letter under date September 29th, 1864,
Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell says:

"My Ministry are very anxious for the
appointment of delegates from this Pro-
vince to confer at Quebec with delegates
from the other Maritime Provinces and
Canada. The subject of the Conference
is intended to be the feasibility of a Union,
whether Federal or Legislative, of all
British North America. Even Newfound-
land is sending a representation; and as
the Conference is intended to commence
on the 10th October, it would be impos-
sible for the representatives of Nova Sco-
tia to reach Quebec at that date, if I
await your sanction to their appointment
by the mail due at Halifax on the 12th
October."

There is no authority from the British
Government for the Convention here. He
goes on to say:

"I find, however, on further enquiry,
that no official invitation such as I could
recognize has been yet received from
Lord Monck, adequate to justify my
nominating representatives of this Pro-
vince to a Conference, where, strictly
speaking, they should not proceed at all,
without your previous sanction."

There is no authority yet. And again,
on the 1st October, Mr. Cardwell re-
plied:

"I have to thank you for the interest-
ing intelligence you have conveyed to
me, and to state, with reference to your
request for authority to permit certain
members of your Executive Council to
revisit to Quebec, there to resume the dis-
cussion of this subject, that I have received
an intimation from Lord Monck that he
intends communicating with me upon it."

So that up to the 1st October, only a
few days before the meeting of the dele-
gates, no dispatch had been received by
Mr. Cardwell from Lord Monck on the
subject, and the British Government had
given no authority for such a Confer-
ence.

They had all, at one time or another,

been in favor of a Union of some kind,
but this scheme of Confederation was
the grafting of old principles upon a
new stock, and, consequently, could
bring forth nothing but fungi and rot-
tenness.

Mr. Anglin then read from a paper,
the organ of Mr. J. A. S. MacDonald,
to show that that gentleman had said
that Canada was virtually without a Gov-
ernment, and it was to fill that want
that this plan of Confederation was
brought up. Here the secret sessions
were first originated, and why? Be-
cause their deliberations could not bear
the light. No, they loved the darkness,
and it seems very much adapted to the
politicians of Canada. And so, by in-
volving these Lower Provinces in ruin,
a plan was laid by which a Government
could be provided for Canada. The
scheme was matured and presented to
the people of this Province. Mr. Mac-
Donald says it was to be put through
the three Legislatures at once and he
(Mr. Anglin) thought that the bold stand
taken by the Chief Commissioner of the
Board of Works was the means of saving
to us the liberties of this people. The
people here solemnly announced their
decision; they had been told that it
must be passed without any change,
either the dotting of an i or the crossing
of a t, and then after all this, and the
matter, so far as we were concerned,
was concluded, they had the audacity
and insolence to speak for the people of
this Province, and appeal to Great Bri-
tain to pass a law enforcing Union upon
us. Under such circumstances had the
Government not the right to clothe the
expression of their loyalty in such words
as would show to the British Govern-
ment that they rightly estimated the
liberties of the people as well as the
privileges of the Throne.

Mr. Anglin then read from page 204
of the Journals of Assembly for last Ses-
sion an extract from the despatches laid
before the House by the Government to
shew the Lieut. Governor had received
a copy of the Resolutions from Lord
Monck; and that, when submitted to the
Canadian Parliament, the 24th section
had been altered. These Resolutions,
which we were told could not be de-
parted from one iota, were coolly altered
to suit the wishes of Canada without
consulting with the various parties in-
terested. That section, as passed by the
Conference, was as follows:

"The local Legislature of each Pro-
vince may, from time to time, alter the
electoral districts for the purpose of re-
presentation in the House of Commons,
and distribute the representatives to
which the Province is entitled in any
manner such Legislature may think fit."

But, instead of the words "in the
House of Commons," as they called the
General Assembly, they substituted the
words "in such local Legislature."

Now if Canada could serve us in such
a manner when treating with us on the
preliminaries—if they would thus alter
the great charter of our rights, is it to
be expected that they would treat us
otherwise afterwards? It appears that
after they had gone over the whole mat-
ter and decided upon it—after even a
clear draft was made of the resolutions—
they found that a mistake had been
made. But did the Canadians thus alter

the scheme without the assent of, or
consultation with, our delegates. The
Hon. Mr. Steves, in reply to a circular
addressed to the delegates by the Pro-
vincial Secretary, at the request of the
Lieutenant Governor, says:

"I beg to state for the information of
His Excellency the Lieutenant Gov-
ernor, that my consent has not been re-
quested to any change in the wording
of the resolutions agreed to by the Con-
ference held at Quebec in October last,
subsequently to their signature."

J. M. Johnson, Esq., says the same,
although his letter is not given. Hon.
Mr. Chandler says:

"I have to say that no such consent
was requested, nor was I made aware
of any change being made in the word-
ing of any of the resolutions, after the
same were agreed to at the Confer-
ence."

The Hon. P. Mitchell says the same.
The Hon. J. H. Gray says the same,
only, unfortunately, he says too much.
He says:

"No such consent was asked of me,
nor have I directly or indirectly re-
ceived any communication upon such a
subject."

This would have been sufficient, but,
unfortunately for the result, he goes on
to add:

"And if I may be permitted to add
the expression of my personal belief, I
do not believe that in the wording of
the original resolutions, as signed by
myself and others of the delegates, any
alteration whatever has been made."

Mr. Tilley was the only one of the
delegates who was consulted, and he
remarks that he did not give his con-
sent to a change in the decision of the
Conference. He also says that in a
letter he had received from Mr. Galt,
that gentleman had asked, "if there
was not a mistake in the wording of the
24th resolution in the record signed by
the members of the Conference at Mon-
treal, leaving to the local Legislatures
the power of determining the electoral
limits of the Confederate Legislature.
I find this letter on file, but I cannot
now remember whether or not I an-
swered it; if I did I have not kept a
copy."

We had all heard of the very wonder-
ful manner in which the business in the
office of the Provincial Secretary was
carried on, but he would not say any-
thing against that gentleman, as he
had made it a point, both in his public
and private life, not to remark upon the
proceedings of those who were not in a
position to reply, and he was sure that
gentleman would bear him out in the
remark, that he had on all occasions re-
frained from any personal expressions
calculated to wound his feelings.
Again, another delegate says in his re-
ply to the circular:

"My assent was never requested to
any change in the resolutions agreed to
by the Conference held at Quebec in
October last."

He goes on to say: