Mr HOWAT.—I have listened to the arguments very ably put before the Committee, and I must say that my opinions remain unchanged from what they were last year. I still hold to the view that it would not be well for us to be united with the Lower Provinces. We should always pay a heavy tax to the union; and, should it did not then succeed, we would be as we could get our independence again. Some appear to think that union would be the means of allaying the little animosities which exist in our community. I, however, consider it not enough to be exempt from those more than our own, for I was just reading the other day of an election in some part of England, and you know great difficulties were experienced on this very point; consequently, I believe it to be a mistaken idea. Why shall these alone are disturbed by such feelings? In the old country, candidates are sometimes pelted with brickbats and rotten eggs; now, Sir, we have reason to fear that in our little Colony. Were the Provinces united they would still probably require to be divided in a manner similar; and in electing the officers for each, the same feelings would likely arise which are complained of at present. I also believe that in the event of a union the taxation would be almost doubled. Deciding upon the seat of Government would likewise be a difficulty; and however the question might be settled, we could scarcely expect that the capital would be on this Island. I am opposed to union, still I think it would be treating the other Colonies with scarcely proper courtesy not to accede to the appointment of a delegation.

Mr MONTGOMERY.—I will support the resolution authorizing the appointment of delegates, but only on condition that they have no power independent of the Legislature. They should only, as it were, spy out the land, and report to this House. It is because the resolution merely contemplates this that I do not object to it.

Hon. Mr M'AULAY read the amendment proposed by Mr Howlan, and objected to it, because it was so worded as to say that this House would not agree to union on any terms.

Mr HASLAM.—Mr Chairman, we are only, as it were, reasoning on the proposal of our sister Colonies,—only desiring to obtain information as to what terms they would agree to take us into a union, and for this purpose the resolution is very cautiously worded. The delegates will only be required to meet those appointed by the other Provinces, listen to their suggestions, and report again to this Legislature. When we look at the debt of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it appears to me that we should hesitate before we enter into a union. Whatever advantage we might gain from it, it is evident that we could obtain very little more benefit from their railways than at present. It costs a considerable sum to convey our mails here in the winter season, an expense which we would probably have still to bear though a union were consummated. We might derive the benefit of an increase of trade, but this would not amount to much; therefore, taking a view of the whole case, I think we ought to be careful how we act in this matter. As to the religious bickerings alluded to by former speakers, they have been got up for a certain purpose, and may not continue for any length of time. I detest them, and say that they have no business in the halls of legislation. They are extraneous matter in this debate, and should not be allowed to weigh our decisions on this question. I differ with the hon. Col. Secretary in thinking that a union would increase our capital. I believe we would still have to depend on our own resources. We ought to be cautious how we proceed, but I can see no difficulty in the way of supporting the resolution proposed by the hon. leader of the Government. These Colonies are undoubtedly destined to become a great country; and should a union, after mature consideration, be deemed advisable, I would be prepared to fall in with the movement.

Hon. Mr COLES again spoke at considerable length. He said that he had been listening to the arguments of the different speakers, and had come to the conclusion that to authorize the appointment of delegates would be a bogus affair, as it appeared that not more than one hon. member or two were at all in favor of union. The hon. Colonial Secretary was the only one who entirely approved of it. Now, what end would it serve to appoint delegates if we were determined not to enter into a union. It had been argued that we should send delegates as a matter of courtesy, but this was too serious a question for mere form. The other Provinces seemed to have resolved on union whether we went in or not, so that unless we were prepared to go the whole course, we had better decline to appoint delegates. It had been stated that a delegation would be the means of obtaining information. This was a very weak argument, for we already knew exactly the state of the other Colonies. By sending delegates, we might be thought to commit ourselves to union; he therefore thought it safer course to support the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Cascumpec. When he (Mr C.) spoke in the morning, he saw no serious objection to the resolution proposed by the hon. leader of the Government, but then he was not aware that hon. members were so unanimously opposed to giving up our Legislature. Our speeches would probably be referred to, so we might as well maintain our consistency, and vote against even the appointment of a delegation. Were it a federal union of the whole of the Provinces that was proposed, he (Mr C.) would more readily give it his support.

Hon. Col. GRAY replied, that this morning the hon. member did not seem disposed to make this a party question; but it appeared now that simply because the resolution had been proposed by himself (Col. Gray) as leader of the Government—what was his duty to do on account of the communication received from the Government of Nova Scotia—the hon. leader of the Opposition did not intend to treat it as an open question. He had spoken in favor of a federal union of the Provinces, but this was not the matter before the House. He had also stated that all hon. members, with one or two exceptions, were opposed to the proposed union. He (Col. G.) had not said that he was opposed to the union. If the other Colonies would agree to build the Provincial Buildings here, and engage to aid us in abolishing our landlord system, he might give it his hearty support.

Hon. Mr COLES said a march had been stolen on the Opposition. We were told that it was not a party question, and it was certainly so understood by the hon. the Speaker this afternoon when he delivered one of the best speeches ever given within these walls. The hon. leader of the Government, however, now threw out the hint to his supporters that the resolution was brought forward by the Government.

Hon. Mr WHELAN.—Before the question is taken, Mr Chairman, I will say a few words on the subject; and in the first place, I have to express my regret at not having heard the remarks of the hon. Speaker which those more fortunate than I, have characterised so highly. Before entering upon the discussion of a question of such pre-eminent importance, the Government should have given notice of a particular day to be appropriated to it, and it is amusing to hear the disclaimer that it is to be considered as a Government measure. Never was a more momentous question submitted to this Legislature; and since the Government decline to pledge themselves to it, the sending of a delegation to the proposed conference is nothing but a farce. I care not for the nature of the union whether it be Federal or Legislative, either will be absurd while we remain tied to the apron-strings of our venerable mother—Great Britain. The time will come when, as foreshadowed by the statesmen and politicians of Britain, the Colonies will be cast off; and when that time shall arrive, they may with far more propriety than at present discuss the principle and details of a union, either Federal or Legislative. The anticipated invasion of hordes of hostile Marauders from the States is not likely to occur; but if it should take place, the people of Great Britain, not of this Island, would be responsible for it, and we would not be under the necessity of sacrificing our blood and our treasure in a vain endeavor in a struggle which we had no part in creating. The opinion that it would be advantageous to separate the connection which binds the Colonies to the Mother Country, is gaining ground in Britain, and if it should assume a practical shape, we would be as well off in our separate condition as we would be as a member of a Confederacy with the neighboring Provinces. These Colonies are as old as, some older, than were the thirteen which, in 1775, revolted from Great Britain; but are we as prosperous as they? Is this Island in wealth equal to the little