

ty. It will not wither in a night; it did not spring up in a day, but its decay will be more rapid than its growth. And when in after years the Nova Scotian is asked "wherefore the tree is dead—its branches withered and scared and a resting place for the great American Eagle" he will point to this little resolution as the worm which gnawed its roots.

I ask the Prov. Sec.—I ask the House to pause, and reflect upon the consequences which every judicious man who understands the people of this Province will see are but too likely to flow from the passage of this resolution. When these consequences are developed then perhaps the Prov. Secy. will lament the evil he has brought upon the country. Lord Palmerston speaking of the Emperor of Russia said, "there is no greater calamity can befall a man than to be born to a heritage of triumphant wrong." Sir, the Prov. Secy. had not the "heritage." He sought the "wrong" it remains with this House to say whether the "wrong" shall be "triumphant."

I entreat the House to withhold from him the power to make his wrong triumphant—to prevent the evils which may flow from this confederacy. The Financial Secretary says we prophecy evil. I am no prophet, nor yet am I the son of a prophet, but I may close by repeating the words which the great King of Prophets, Isaiah, tells us God himself commanded him to utter, "Say ye not, a confederacy to all them to whom this people shall say, a confederacy, neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid." Sirs, "Say ye not, a confederacy."

SPEECH OF HON. MR. MCFARLANE.

Hon. Mr. MCFARLANE said:—It being the intention to divide this evening on the resolution under discussion, I do not intend at any length to occupy the time and attention of the House, but the question is one of such great importance that I cannot allow the resolution to pass with a silent vote. There is no doubt that of all the momentous questions that have agitated this country, this is, beyond measure, the most important. The step we are about to take, in every probability, will affect for all time to come the destinies of our native Province—will doubtless bring prosperity or adversity, and therefore, demands grave and careful consideration. No one should assent to the measure unless assured that it is calculated to promote our future safety and happiness. There is no doubt that a large majority of the reflecting men throughout British America, as well as in Britain herself, viewing the condition of affairs on this continent, have come to the conclusion that the time has arrived when these valuable provinces can no longer continue in their present disconnected position, and must either form a united confederacy for purposes of defence, or be swallowed up by the gigantic powerful republic on our borders. For many years we have moved on peacefully and prosperously under the fostering care of the Mother Country, until we have outgrown the state of infancy, and reached that condition of maturity, population, and prosperity, which entails upon us increased responsibilities.—There can be no doubt that valuable and important as these North American Provinces are to the Mother Land, from their position to

the United States they necessarily are the weakest and least secure of the outlying Colonies of the Empire, and more than all others are calculated to cause fears for their safety. Hence the extreme solitude of Imperial statesmen and soldiers, as well as politicians, to see them, at the earliest possible moment placed in such a position and so united together as will best ensure their safety, and strengthen their connection with the Crown. It is however all important for us as Legislators, empowered to deal with the interests of the people, to see that the contemplated Union is consummated on terms fair and equitable to all the Colonies proposed to be united and that the just rights of our own Province should be carefully guarded. The question is important to us both in a political and financial point of view. But above all others, to those who value British connection, towers the question of defence. And at the present time when hordes of armed Fenians threaten an invasion of our land, it assumes increased importance. I believe in the maxim that "Union is strength" and the whole current of entreaty and advice from the Mother Land, whence we must look for protection in our time of need, unmistakeably points to a similar conclusion. If we desire to ensure a continuance of that protection, it is evident, that whatever opinions in the matter we may entertain, the parties from whom we expect to receive it, believe that protection can be best provided, and our safety secured by the whole of the Provinces being united under one common head. With the financial features of the case I will not attempt to deal as it has been viewed in all its aspects, by gentlemen who have given to this branch of the subject much care and research. It was fully gone into during the debate of last session, and even under the Quebec scheme, I have been unable to discover where the interests of the province are not fairly guarded. I cannot however, say, that I was ever a defender of the entire scheme of Union agreed upon. Its basis undoubtedly is sound and the measure was prepared as far as possible to guard the interests of the weaker provinces. But where the independent judgments of a number of gentlemen with different interests to serve, are brought in contact, it is impossible that each can have his own way and there necessarily must be mutual compromises, or nothing could be accomplished. This we are informed was the case in reference to the Quebec scheme, and there being no controlling influence, the wonder is that so much was done. But under the resolution to which the House is now asked to assent, this will be remedied, and the unfair pressure of any province justly modified. We can place the utmost confidence in the integrity and love of justice which characterises British Statesman, when the facts are fairly brought before them under the terms of the resolution, which affords the smallest and weakest colony, little Prince Edward Island, the same voice in the advocacy of its claims as will be enjoyed by either of the enormous Canadian provinces. There is no reason to suppose that the interests and wishes of each colony will not be strongly urged and justly dealt with. But it is said Upper Canada, from its rapidly increasing wealth and population after Confederation, will use her power and