

promoting the scheme though he was at the outset hostile to it; but when he has had an opportunity of examining it in all its details he gives it his support and confidence. If you look at the Legislature of that province you find that, although upon an appeal to the people by a combination between the opponents of Confederation and the opponents of the government, a large majority was returned to oppose the Quebec scheme, yet now day by day the condition of public affairs is operating to such an extent upon both branches that a few days since the following resolution was passed by the Legislative Council, by a majority of 14 to 5:—

*Resolved*, as in the opinion of this Committee,—That a Union of all the British North American Provinces, based on the resolutions adopted at the Conference of Delegates from the several Provinces, held at Quebec on the 10th of October, 1864, is an object highly to be desired—essential to their future prosperity and influence, and calculated, alike to strengthen and perpetuate the ties which bind them to the Mother Country;

*Resolved*, as in the opinion of this Committee,—That the Legislative Council should concur in any measure which may be necessary to carry such a union into effect."

I ask what is it that has corrupted the Legislative Council of New Brunswick so as to induce this overwhelming change in their minds. Is the hon. member prepared to charge them with base, dishonorable, and corrupt motives? Does he not know that sitting in that branch of the Legislature are men whose wealth and standing in the country are sufficient protection against the base insinuations with which he fills the disreputable journal which is under his control? In the presence of this crisis in the history of British North America the Legislative Council, like Her Majesty's Representative, stand forward and declare by an overwhelming majority that they are prepared to uphold the great scheme of Intercolonial union as the great means of advancing the best interests of the country. Look at the lower house, and you will find the leader of the Government—who has been bespattered for the past twelve months by this same press and held up as an incorruptible patriot,—declaring by the speech at the opening of the Legislature, and showing by his own admissions on the floor of Parliament, that his views have undergone a great change in relation to the question of a union of the colonies. Looking at the events that are transpiring in this province no one can doubt the result. Then, I say, is it Canadian gold that is corrupting the Province and influencing it to assume an attitude so very different from what it assumed a year ago? Coming to our own Province what do I find? I am not going to speak of the Lieutenant Governor (Mr. Annand—hear, hear), but the Government knows that the "Hero of Kars," in his capacity of Commander-in-Chief of British North America, used all the ability and talent at his command, by public speeches and written communications, in favor of a union of British North America. As one of the most distinguished soldiers of the empire he felt that the salvation and security of British North America depended upon the proposed union being carried into effect. What has corrupted that high-minded soldier, statesman and patriot? Is it Canadian

gold? If the features of the scheme are such as to bring to its advocacy a man so distinguished, why is it that this deliberative Assembly is told that Canadian gold is the only means of inducing men to combine in carrying it forward? In what position is the brave and distinguished Admiral on this Station? He stood forth at the very inception of this scheme, as he stands to-day,—he, one of the most distinguished heroes that ever graced the navy of England—lending his voice and co-operation to the great scheme of a Union of British North America, as the means by which we are to be elevated into a position of infinitely greater importance than we can now enjoy,—as the only means of preserving these provinces to the Crown of England. What is it that has corrupted him? Need I remind gentlemen that the same position is occupied by that universal favorite in this country—the gallant Major-General Doyle. Does not the hon. member know that that distinguished gentleman as a soldier, as a servant of the Crown, as a man upon whom the responsibility of our protection depends, has used all the influence he can exercise by argument and persuasion in favour of a Union of these provinces. Thus we find all those illustrious men standing shoulder to shoulder in this great question. Then there is the distinguished prelate, His Grace the Archbishop, who has stood forward in this province, and by his voice and pen, urged upon the people the adoption of this scheme of Union as the great means by which the safety and prosperity of our country must be promoted. There is His Lordship the talented and astute Bishop of Nova Scotia. His Lordship the Bishop of Arichat—the united clergy of all denominations—Episcopalian, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, men of all shades of political opinions standing in a solid phalanx, such as was never exhibited in this country before, in the face of the people of this province as the supporters of Confederation, and giving all the assistance of their talents and exertions as the only means by which our country may be elevated, and our connection with Great Britain preserved. Side by side you find all the able and distinguished judiciary of our country united in sustaining this Union of British North America. What has corrupted the entire religious Press—the "Presbyterian Witness," the "Wesleyan," the "Christian Messenger." Here you see these journals reflecting the views of the clergy of various denominations combining to press forward this great scheme of Union; and yet you find the hon. member standing forward and declaring that men who only look to the welfare and security of their country are influenced by the base and contemptible motives which he has ventured to insinuate. I am bold to say that if up to the present hour there has been a single dollar of Canadian gold brought into the country in connection with this question I am ignorant of it; if there has been a statesman in the whole of Canada that would dare to approach a member of this Legislature or any one else in this country by means such as that, he has not insulted me by taking me into his confidence. Standing here as I do with the knowledge of that fact—of the dishonorable character of this insinuation, I feel I could afford to let it pass by with the contempt