

the natural results which would flow from Union—have proved of immense benefit to the country. And then the question of defence is one of great importance. If we are to be protected, and if Imperial interests here are to be protected, we ought to know it at once—the sooner the better. The hon. President of the Council has now gone into the question pretty fully; but it is said that he was invited to discuss the matter in public by Mr. Tilley, before the elections, and declined.

Hon. Mr. SMITH.—That was wrong; it was not so.

Mr. CONNELL.—I am glad to hear it, for the people would very much have liked to hear the arguments for and against the Scheme from such able men. I regret that that distinguished gentleman is not now on the floors of this House to cope with the hon. President of the Council. But I think that there are men still on the floors of this House, who, though humble, will be able to adduce arguments as convincing to the public mind as those given by those opposed to the Scheme, and they will be so convinced that a change will take place. It is said that the question is to be forced on the people of this Province. The hon. member for St. John, (Mr. Anglin), puts his views before the public, and they should be replied to. It is to be regretted that he can come here and discuss the question, while Mr. Tilley's mouth is shut.

Mr. NEEDHAM.—The people shut it.

Mr. CONNELL.—Yes, the people shut it; but who shut the mouths of these gentlemen before the elections, when the people might have been informed on the subject by a full discussion of it? The hon. member for St. John says, there are plotters, and tricksters, and schemers all around us, at the corners, on the streets, in the hotels, and he applies these terms to the men who are in favor of Confederation. But I should like to know who were the plotters in Ireland in 1848? Perhaps if he were to go Home as one of the delegates, he would be well known by his antecedents, and it might come out, and maybe that would be as good a way as any to cut off some of these plotters and schemers. I think we should have heard less about plotters if some hon. gentlemen had stayed in the home of their fathers. I was born in this country, and I remember when there were not more than fifty houses on the upper St. John, and they were the homes of those who have made the bone and sinew of the country. But new comers step in and take it upon themselves to call our people plotters and schemers; the very men who are upholding the rights and interests of the Province are thus called. The majority of votes cast in opposition to Confederation were by men who are not natives of this Province; but I think a short time will suffice to convince many of them that they were in error,—many of them are so already. The reason why I speak strongly on this subject is that I am strongly in favor of Confederation, and so these terms may be applied to me. But even though the question comes up before this people again, and fail to be carried, we will not rebel,—as it was said on the floors of this House that if Confederation carried, those who opposed it would have rebelled. Why, this question of Confederation was urged on the old colonies by Benjamin Franklin, and why did he fail to carry through his measure? He opposed the British Government were opposed to it, and afraid that their power would be lost if the Colonies united.

They said if we allow them to unite we shall lose all control over them; they are increasing in numbers and strength, and we shall not be able to hold them. But what is the case now? Instead of this the Imperial Government are anxious that we should unite, and feels that her power would be strengthened by it. If this had been the case before the revolution, instead of now being divided up into a vast number of States, the British flag would have floated over the whole of this continent. But in spite of all, Franklin stood to his post; neither gifts nor emoluments could move him from his purpose.

Hon. Mr. ANGLIN.—He was Post Master General.

Mr. CONNELL.—Yes, and lost his office too.

Hon. Mr. ANGLIN.—Yes, but his head is on the postage stamps now.

Mr. CONNELL.—His son was appointed as Governor of one of the Colonies; but that is what a Colonist can't get now, although I believe they would make as good Governors as those that come from across the water.

Mr. NEEDHAM.—Was not Mr. Hinks made a Governor?

Mr. CONNELL.—Yes, but Mr. Hinks was an Irishman. He lived in Canada, and I wish he were out here now; he would have carried through a railway system before this. I think that we in these Colonies have men of ability and talents that fit them for the office of Governor; we should still have a link to bind us to England—the Governor General. I would not object to have a French Canadian for Governor of this Province, by way of exchange, for they have men of talent and influence there, who would fill the office well,—so they have in Nova Scotia. Among distinguished and able men I need only mention the name of the Hon. Joseph Howe, of Nova Scotia, and the Hon. J. A. MacDonald, of Canada. I think we need not look upon ourselves as so very diminutive; we have men who have gone away from us and became famous. Look at the Anglins, of Nova Scotia, and General Williams, of Kars. I have no doubt that the hon. President of the Council and the hon. member for St. John, (Mr. Anglin), will be appointed delegates to go home, and show the people of England what a great wrong they intend to inflict upon us. And yet I hope there will be some means by which we shall be able to show the British Government that there was a very large minority in favor of Confederation, and that it has been stated that the people have not had a fair chance to test the question. I believe the not getting it has already shown that we should have been financially and commercially better off if we had got it. I believe that the great minority will not be over-ridden by the delegates who go home. The Government are the patriots now; they hold the interests of the people in their hands, they guide the ship of State, and should keep it off the shoals intine of peril. We shall see what they can do in managing the affairs of a country with 250,000 inhabitants, less than many towns in England. In Nova Scotia the question is in abeyance; but I hope that it will be decided favorably. In Lower Canada there was but a small minority in opposition to the Scheme, and that was led by Mr. Dorion, the leader of the Rouge party. I oppose the delegation now, because I believe it will be useless. I happen to know that it will have no effect there. I will now close by quoting the opinion of a great Colonist, (General Williams), expressed in a speech made at Toronto. He

is not a "conspirator," he did not conspire against the people of England; he did not publish his feelings and triumph in a paper when the British soldiers were compelled to retire before the Russian troops; but he is a man, and a General, whose name will go down to posterity with honor.

"The concluding paragraph of your address alludes to the great questions of colonial policy which at the present moment are under discussion, and expresses your regrets that I should quit your shores during that discussion. I nevertheless leave you with every hope that the unity of all the British Provinces will be a great fact, which will grow out of the mature, calm and friendly debates now in progress. I think those legislators will at last come to the right conclusion, and that unity and strength will take the place of division and weakness. This unity bears with greater weight upon the defenses of those vast colonies than it does on the commercial advantages, which are in themselves obvious and most important."

Mr. GILBERT.—Mr. Chairman, the Resolutions in your hand, which have been submitted by the hon. member for Saint John (Mr. Cudlip) express that the Confederation of the B. N. A. Provinces would be injurious to the best interests of these Colonies, and recommends that a delegation proceed to England to force that idea on the ministry of that country. I have listened with a great deal of attention, and I may say patience too, to the long address of the hon. member from the County of Carleton. He says he has given this subject his attention prior to the elections, and turned it over, and revolved it in what he is pleased to term his mind, and come to the conclusion that it will be beneficial. I have listened, willing to be convinced, ready to yield to reason whether it comes from a friend or an opponent; and I must confess I have not discovered anything to lead me to believe that his promises are correct. When, in the early part of the Session, we had under discussion the Governor's Speech, I took occasion to express my disappointment at the policy which the Government were pleased to set forth in that Speech, not in reference to a Union of the Colonies, but in reference to the great public works which should have been taken up. I said I regretted that the Government was not formed on any defined policy. I then expressed my desire and intention to give them my support so far as they introduced measures which I believed for the good of the country. Not taking my position as a tame follower, or servile supporter of the Government, I have supported them when their measures were good, and opposed them when I considered they were not so. On the Militia Bill I opposed them, as I thought the money could be better expended. The Post Office Bill I better supported, thinking it would save some \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year to the country. I supported the Treasury Note Bill also, because I believed it would be the means of saving a large amount of money to the country. And now lest the people might misconstrue my position on Confederation, I desire to express my opinions on these Resolutions, so that I may not be misinterpreted or misunderstood by my constituents on a question, the greatest that ever came before this House. I say that it is of great importance, and therefore we feel a deep regret that we are called out to discuss it, for it has not grown out of our wants, but of the local necessities of Canada—out of the differences which exist between Upper and Lower Canada, and their pecuniary difficulties. We all