

(Hon. Mr. BROWN), and on what ground? On the question of representation based upon numbers. Why has that hon. gentleman created such a turmoil in Upper Canada, and why has he tried to tread under foot that which the French-Canadians hold most dear—their religion? It was to attain power, to reach the seat which he now occupies on the other side of the House, supported by the honorable members for Kamouraska and Dorchester, like altar posts on each side of a statue. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Who are those who have opposed that hon. member in this House? All the members for Lower Canada, both French and English without distinction. Never have the members from Lower Canada been divided on this vital question. *Bleus* and *Rouges*, Mr. SPEAKER, have united as one man to preserve that which guaranteed to them their future as descendants of old France. And what was the cause of this union of French-Canadians against the hon. member for South Oxford? To refuse him that which the present Administration has conceded to him, by the Quebec Conference. What was the reason given by the Hon. Attorney General for Upper Canada, during the session of 1863, to the member for South Oxford, who reproached him for having governed Upper Canada by a Lower Canadian majority? He replied—and his words are still ringing in my ears—“Never,” said he, “has Upper Canada had to complain of anything which my Government has imposed on Upper Canada by means of a Lower Canadian majority. You have no grounds of complaint, and you will never obtain your extreme demands.” This was the language used at that time. But things are changed, and unfortunately *autre temps autre chose*. *O tempora! O mores!* And afterwards, the honorable member for Montreal East added expressions more or less ironical, more or less founded, comparing the Grits of Upper Canada to so many codfish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It was then, Mr. SPEAKER, that the honorable member for South Oxford took an active part in the discussion. (Hear, hear.) You, no doubt, remember the occasion, for then you yourself, Mr. SPEAKER, were, in the eyes of the hon. member for Montreal, only a codfish eager for the bait. Mr. SPEAKER, I have always admired the energy displayed by the hon. member for Montreal East in resisting the hon. member for South Oxford; his courage and boldness were boundless, and there

was such a vast difference of principles, and so much animosity existed between those two hon. gentleman and their respective supporters, that you could never for one moment have imagined that they could endure each other as neighbors on the Treasury benches. This mutual reconciliation, Mr. SPEAKER, reminds me of the effect produced on my mind by the happy family, which I had an opportunity of seeing at New York a few years ago, when the rat was to be seen between the paws of the cat, the monkey running after the rabbit, and the sparrow coquetting with the owl. (Hear, and laughter.) How long have the men to whom I have just referred paid any attention to the claims of the hon. member for South Oxford? How long have they listened to him? It is only since those hon. gentlemen have found themselves in a minority in this House, since the TACHÉ-MACDONALD Government have resolved *per fas aut nefas* to retain office—never before. Now, all this has not tended to inspire me with any confidence in the plan of Confederation, and has indeed made me resolve to vote against the whole, because this scheme is to be accepted *in toto* or not at all. (Hear, hear.) The Government tells us, Mr. SPEAKER, that these resolutions cannot be amended in any particular; the seventy-two resolutions, they say, must be voted all together, so as to give no ground for complaint on the part of the Maritime Provinces. It is a treaty from which no deviation can be allowed. But how is it that the Honorable Mr. TILLEY, of New Brunswick, offered to allow the Opposition in that province to amend this treaty? And did not the Government declare, at the end of the last session, that they intended to propose an amendment of some kind to the Constitutional Act, and that they would submit it to the people for their consideration before seeking its adoption? And now they refuse to do this. Ah! I repeat, all this is very far from inspiring me with the least confidence in the scheme of Confederation, and in the present Administration. You must swallow the whole scheme without hesitation, without power to offer a single amendment. Let those who please vote for such a measure, the humble member for Yamaska assuredly will not. I therefore declare that I am prepared to vote against the measure now under consideration. (Applause.)

HON. MR. EVANTUREL said—Mr. SPEAKER, in return for the indulgence