

plishment of the end in view. The gentleman referred to met Mr. Smith at Government House on the 5th of March, and His Excellency believes that a very protracted interview subsequently took place between them; and was a most a very late period that His Excellency relinquished the hope of seeing a combination effected to smooth the passage of the contemplated Resolutions."

¶ And had it been shown that this method of advising with and taking the advice and counsel of a leading member of the Opposition, had been so very beneficial or so conducive to bring about the end in view? Had it been the means of furthering the business of the House? They had been in session some four or five weeks, and had not yet passed the Address, and never would, and the Government had been prevented by the Opposition from going on with the necessary business of the country.

"His Excellency thinks it right also to state, that his reply was prepared by himself alone, and that the Council are in error in supposing that its terms were the subject of advice from any member of the Opposition.

"His Excellency does not admit the entire accuracy of Mr. Smith's report of his conversations with him, appended to the *Minute of Council*, but at the same time readily acknowledges that the difference between his own impression of those conversations and that of Mr. Smith, is only such as might naturally arise under the circumstances. Mr. Smith has, however, omitted to state that at his first interview His Excellency pointed out, as he had frequently done before, the embarrassing results of the non-arrival of the Legislative Council, and observed that the Legislature Council had now passed an Address, at the adoption of which he should probably feel obliged to express satisfaction.

The Lieutenant Governor of course feels that previous communication between himself and his Advisers as to any step he is about to take, is, when practicable, both desirable and convenient; and it was His Excellency's full intention to have submitted the draft of his reply to the consideration of his Council, and he much regrets that accident should have frustrated an intention.

The Committee of the Legislative Council did not wait on His Excellency till after 12 o'clock, and until the terms of Address was in his possession, he could not officially communicate with the Council on the subject of his reply to it.

He then immediately sent for Mr. Smith, intending to put the drafts into his hands, and request him to communicate it to his colleagues.

Mr. Smith, however, appears not to have received His Excellency's note until half-past two o'clock, and His Excellency's intentions in this respect were consequently foiled."

Then why had His Excellency not told him when he was at Government House at eleven o'clock in the morning, of the course he had decided to pursue? Why this haste? Were the Government at ease of his intentions? No; for when he left Government House after demonstrating with His Excellency on the course, he was pursuing, His Excellency told him he would think over what he had said to him and see him again; and when he said him, he meant his Council.

"The only other observation which he feels called upon to make is, when, during their interview, His Excellency let the room as stated by Mr. Smith, it was not, as that gentleman supposes, to consult a member of the Opposition respecting the omission or retention of a paragraph in his Reply.—a point on which His Excellency received no advice from any other person than Mr. Smith,—but for the purpose of ascertaining whether it might not even then be possible to postpone the reception of the Address for a few hours. He found however, that it would have been impossible to do so without gross discourtesy to the Legislative Council.

(Signed)

ARTHUR GORDON.

Fredericton, 11th March, 1866."

If the statement the Governor here made were true, if he was really desirous to make them acquainted with the contents and nature of the reply he intended to deliver, why did he not do it? Was this a respectful way in which to treat his Council? And, if he felt that he should make them acquainted with the reply, why not have communicated with the President of the Legislative Council, and obtained further time in which to advise with him? No, forsooth, no time must be lost; there must be no delay, or it would have been "gross discourtesy" to the Legislative Council. No thought here of the gross injustice done to the people, no intimation of a recognition of an infringement of their rights. He (Mr. S.) held the members of the Opposition in respect, and could not doubt but they would discountenance such actions on the part of His Excellency. If the debate had been allowed to close, and the Government had died constitutionally, they would have died gloriously, but to be thus thrust out was an outrage not only on them but on the people they represent. He saw from the first that means were being employed to entrap the Government. He had told the Governor that what transpired between them was to be kept all over the town. Was it not stated by some of their opponents that they did not care for the want of confidence vote at all, for even if it was not sustained, the Government would be defeated within a week after? And did not that show that plans were already laid, matured and ready for execution?

Mr. Smith then proceeded to read his written reply to the charges of His Excellency, but it was objected by Mr. Wilmot that as it was a part of the correspondence on the resignation of the Government, it should be laid before His Excellency before being submitted to the members of the House.

Mr. FISHER also objected on the ground that the Governor was not and could not be there to answer anything that might be brought against him, and he thought such a procedure unparalleled in any ministerial crisis.

Mr. SMITH urged that His Excellency had been heard, and now he would be heard, and lay that paper before the House, and the people as part of his speech. He then proceeded to read the following

REPUTATION.

"I have read with surprise His Excellency's Memorandum in answer to the paper containing our resignations, and I

regret that it becomes my duty to give a contradiction to many of the statements contained therein, and I shall proceed to give a brief but truthful resume of the different conversations I have had with him on the subject of Union since my return from the United States."

He would here observe that up to a certain time the Governor was as much opposed to Confederation as he. He was a way against the clause on Representation by Population without some neutralizing power. He had corroborative evidence of all he had said. He had always related to his esteemed friend and colleague Mr. Gilmor the conversations that had occurred between himself and the Governor; and now that they were about to part politically, it might be for ever, he would say of Mr. Gilmor that he had known him intimately for a number of years, and had ever found him to be a man of the highest integrity, the noblest virtues, and the purest economy. If he had a fault, it was that he was too economical. The son of an honest and industrious father, he had by the exercise of these virtues raised himself to the position of trust which he was called to fill, and knowing by experience the value of every dollar, he was sparing in letting it go. He ever regarded the public money as sacred, and to be used as he would have done his own. He might not be the most brilliant, nor the most able, although his talents were far above the common, but he certainly had never been excelled, and he could say, and be borne out in the statement, that this Province never had a better Provincial Secretary than Arthur H. Gilmor. Mr. Odell, too, the Postmaster General, was a man of honor, integrity and prudence; and as a Government, he challenged those who should follow them, to watch, look, and examine in their actions, and show that they had been guilty in the slightest degree of any malpractice. They go out with clean hands, without, since the opening of this correspondence, appointing a magistrate or voting a penny to gain political influence, and he challenged their opponents to show a point in which they had proved direct to the public interests. There was his friend, too, the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works, Mr. Hatheway, though he had been most foully abused, yet the greatest complaint they could bring against him was that if he had more money put into his hands he would spend it all on the roads and bridges. These things even the Opposition would agree with. And when he heard the attack of the hon. member for York (Mr. Fisher) on Mr. Byrd, because of his absence for a few days from his office, when that gentleman had returned home to his family to minister to a sick daughter, he felt hurt and indignant. If the official members of Government must live in Fredericton, then Departmental Government must be a monopoly, for the members who live in Fredericton.

"On my arrival in Fredericton, I was told by my colleagues that they had reason to suspect that His Excellency had been in communication with the opposition, and that they believed Mr. Mitchell had been sent for during my absence, and that he, Mr. Wilmot, and others opposed to the Government, had been consulting together with a view to upset the Government. At the second interview I had with His Excellency I told him what I had heard. He did not deny that he