

efforts of those who would lead us into annexation, will be effectually foiled by the loyal people. As far as I am concerned, all my interests are bound up with those of this Province—when she is prosperous then I feel satisfied. I am sprung from the early pioneers who helped to build up the prosperity of this country, and all I desire is to see it progress. I feel I would be recreant in my duty to those who have preceded me, as well as to those who may follow me and bear my name if I stood, at this crisis of our history, opposing a scheme which the best minds of Great Britain and British America have declared is indispensable to the continuance of our prosperity, and our connection with the fatherland. On the 24th June '65, the British Government told us through the Colonial Secretary :

“ You will at the same time express the strong and deliberate opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it is an object much to be desired that all the British North American Colonies should agree to unite in one Government. In the territorial extent of Canada, and in the Maritime and Commercial enterprise of the Lower Provinces, Her Majesty's Government see the elements of power, which only require to be combined in order to secure for these Provinces, which shall possess them all, a place among the most considerable communities of the world. *In the spirit of loyalty to the British Crown of attachment to British connexion, and of love for British Institutions, by which all these Provinces are animated alike, Her Majesty's Government recognize the bond by which all may be combined under one Government.* Such an union seems to Her Majesty's Government to recommend itself to the Provinces on many grounds of moral and material advantages—as giving a well-founded prospect of improved administration and increased prosperity.

“ But there is one consideration which Her Majesty's Government feel it more especially their duty to press upon the Legislature of Nova Scotia. Looking to the determination which this country has ever exhibited in regard to the defence of the Colonies as a matter of Imperial concern, the Colonies must recognize a right and even acknowledge an obligation incumbent on the Home Government to urge with earnestness and just authority the measures which they consider most expedient on the part of the Colonists with a view to their own defence.

“ Nor can it be doubtful that the Provinces of British North America are incapable, when separate and divided from each other of making those just and efficient preparations for national defence which would be easily undertaken by a Province uniting in itself all the population and all the resources of the whole.”

Here you find the British Government imploring us if we are animated by a sincere spirit of loyalty, by a desire to remain connected with Great Britain, to unite without delay. Can any one read these words unmoved? Let me trust that the people will respond to the demand made upon them by those who have the best right to proffer their advice, and hasten the time when we shall be united in one grand Confederation, “with

one flag above our heads, one sentiment in our hearts, with one Sovereign and one Constitution.”

TUESDAY, April 17, 1866.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

#### UNION OF THE COLONIES.

Mr. MILLER presented a large number of petitions from Antigonish on the subject of Confederation.

Mr. ROSS presented two petitions from St. Anns' on the same subject.

The adjourned debate was resumed.

Mr. S. CAMPBELL said:—I quite concur with those gentlemen who have attributed to this subject a magnitude and importance second to none that has ever been discussed in this House. Notwithstanding that there has been a good deal of excitement brought into this debate, and something more than excitement, a good deal of temper, it shall be my endeavor so to moderate my tone and language that not only shall these be in keeping with Parliamentary decorum, but the remarks which I have to offer shall be otherwise entitled to the calm and sober consideration and reflection of the members around these benches. In short I shall not, in addressing this Assembly, exhibit any other demeanor or style of intercourse than that which I practice everywhere. On looking at the past I find satisfaction and comfort in the reflection that my bearing in the debates that have taken place here has been such as to enable me to meet gentlemen on all sides in pleasant relations, and I hope that in the future nothing will transpire to alter the character in those relations. On this subject, sir, I cannot but express regret that those from whom a better example should have proceeded should not have preserved something like moderation and decorum. Those who are in opposition are always most likely to be excited, but those in charge of a great measure such as this, especially the members of the government of the country, should ever feel it incumbent upon them so to guard themselves in this respect that no one here or elsewhere can possibly offer an objection to the course they have pursued. And, sir, I feel in observing on this portion of the discussion, that I have reason to charge the Provincial Secretary with having imported into this debate matters which should never have been brought here. He has alluded to the press—that is a branch of our constitution, if I may so term it, that ought not to be so frequently and so prominently referred to here. We know that on all sides and on all subjects political characters are apt to speak and write strongly and to go to those extremes which cannot be justified in or out of Parliament. But in my view, it was unjust in him to attribute licentiousness to one portion of the press rather than to others, for on all sides we find observations, criminations, and recriminations, which render both liable to censure. The less that is said in this place about the press the better, and with this remark I shall dismiss all further allusions to that branch of the subject. But the Provincial Secretary was not content with references to the press, he introduced into the debate other authorities and influences that should not have been referred to here. Least of all should he have brought here the name of that illustrious lady, the