

hon. delegates? The hon. member for South Colchester in a letter to his fellow-countrymen, claimed to have allies in the United States—allies reflecting his opinions, and among them he named the New York *Albion*. What does that paper say a few weeks after when speaking of the formation of a nation independent of Great Britain.

"We favor and even warmly advocate Confederation with a view to the ultimate realization of these cherished anticipations."

And in another number the same paper says—

"The colonists, unaccustomed to national responsibilities, have been slow to move in the direction so plainly suggested, namely that of a separate national existence entirely independent of the mother country. But, finally aroused to the absolute necessity of action in this direction, A SCHEME WITH THIS END IN VIEW has been proposed and very generally accepted. Led by the stronger member of the Provincial family, the Confederation of all the Provinces, we are happy to say, is now very near an actual realization."

Another of their allies (the *London Standard*) referring to the means tried to carry out the scheme, declares that it endangers the relations of the Mother Country—and quotes Mr. Oliphant as authority to say that no genuine effort was made by the Government to secure a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, without which Confederation could not have been secured, and adds the attempt to dragoon the Provinces into Confederation is dangerous to the relations of the Colonies with the Mother Country. I may add this gentleman is not alone in the opinion that no genuine effort was made to secure the renewal of the treaty,—Mr. Brown withdrew from the Canadian Government, dissenting from his colleagues mainly on account of the inefficiency of the policy pursued to effect the end in view.

I feel that I have already occupied more time than belongs to me, but let me say before I resume my seat, that the events of the last few months—within the last few weeks—should operate, as a powerful influence on the members of the House and on the people of the country. We have been told time and again that the British Government were anxious to have the scheme carried out, and were making its adoption one of the conditions on which our defence should be continued; but although a large number of statesmen may be desirous, from mistaken views of the question, to have this union formed, yet there is justice and manliness enough in them to induce them to say on all occasions that they will not coerce us into it. They are telling us and have told us, that they are omitting Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island from the measure, because nothing can deceive them into the belief that the people of those Provinces are favorable to union. The Provincial Secretary said that Lord Carnarvon asked him he was to accept as authorities on this question, if not the men who conducted the Government; and he (Prov. Secy.) having claimed that a majority of the people were in favor of union, goes to the Colonial Office and states it for a fact, The Colonial Secretary decides that he must accept the statement as au-

thoritative, and having obtained a majority in the Legislature, the measure received the support of the Imperial Government; but these who support it in the British Parliament say, all through their speeches, that if the people are unwilling, it should not be forced upon them. The men who know what the feelings of this country are, and who know that there is no desire on the part of the British Government to coerce us, should now, with this opportunity given, pay deference and respect to the wishes of the people. The Prov. Sec. tells us that the man would be an idiot who would dissolve Parliament as long as he could command a majority. If that doctrine were carried out, it would be found one of the most tyrannical and monstrous that could be uttered: men have lost their heads for putting in practice doctrines less obnoxious. Does he mean that so long as a man can by any means, however corrupt, command a majority in Parliament, he may do what he pleases with the people and their property? No such doctrine can be maintained: there must be some limit, and the men whom the people have sent here to transact their business, and to go back to them with an account of their stewardship, should consider that this question affects the people and their posterity, and they should not assume the unnecessary responsibility of passing it without their instructions, lest, when the evils of this union are realized, they live to be perpetually reproached for their action—live to be told that, members of Parliament though they were, they had no more right to force this measure upon their countrymen than they will have to enter Heaven with so great a crime against the manhood of Nova Scotia unrepentant of.

Speech of Mr. Archibald.

MR. ARCHIBALD said:—I confess to some embarrassment in addressing the House at this moment. My hon. friend has delivered to us a most impassioned harangue. Not content with giving us his views in the most emphatic manner—not content with announcing that no good will come in this world to those of Confederate faith—he goes on further, and in his closing sentences shuts us out from any hopes of happiness in the world to come. (Laughter.) Is it any wonder that I should feel a little embarrassed in rising to speak after being thus formally excluded from everlasting bliss. (Renewed laughter.)

One thing at all events I shall not aim at. I shall not attempt to soar to the heights my hon. friend has reached. I feel that these lofty flights are beyond me—that my province is the more prosaic one of common sense—and I shall assume that after the House has recovered its self-possession, it will be disposed to listen to something that, if it does not appeal to their imaginations—at all events does to their intelligence and their judgment.