

bringing his name there, but also the existence of those opinions. His Grace the Archbishop had also been referred to—as every one was aware, that eminent gentleman, respected by all creeds and classes, had made his opinions known. These opinions had had their course through the country, and their effect would appear in due time. The Presbyterian clergymen had also been alluded to, but how long was it that the Provincial Secretary had placed such confidence in the ministry of that denomination. A very strange revulsion of feeling had taken place in that hon. gentleman. A few years ago he could not find anything, too coarse in the vocabulary of Billingsgate against Presbyterian clergymen, but he had changed his tone all at once.

The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Shannon) had attempted to justify this demonstration by reference to what took place last year in connection with the illustrious name of Shakespere. No analogy could be drawn between the two demonstrations. That of last year was a national demonstration; not merely in Halifax and Nova Scotia, but in all portions of the British empire—wherever literature and civilization are prized. It was an honour to our common humanity—not an honour to any particular nationality, but one to the name of man. Therefore it was that men of every climate and every nation vied with each other in paying tribute to a name that will live as long as this world will last. Another individual had been mentioned as approving of the scheme of Confederation—General Williams. No man in Nova Scotia was prouder of the fame of that distinguished Nova Scotian than he himself, and it was a proud day when he sat in the Speaker's chair and put the resolution by which the House paid him honour. He admired that illustrious gentleman's talents, but upon this question the people of Nova Scotia and their representatives were as competent to form a sound and safe opinion as even the hero of Kars.

The hon. Provincial Secretary defended the demonstration on the ground that it was only right that we should return the courtesies paid to the delegates. There was no doubt that the various bodies in Canada did treat these gentlemen in the handsomest style. Although this province paid very handsomely for the visit they made, yet he rather believed that they travelled free—that all their expenses, even to their washing bills were paid in Canada. No one could have the slightest objection to the hon. Provincial Secretary or the Attorney General cracking as many bottles of Champagne as they pleased as private individuals with these Canadian gentlemen, but it was not just or right that the government of this country should endorse the action of the city of Halifax in respect to this demonstration. Without dwelling further on the subject he would read the following resolution as expressing the views of himself, and as he believed, of a majority in the House:

Whereas a public demonstration is proposed to take place this evening in the city of Halifax for the purpose of giving a public reception to certain gentlemen who formed a portion of the late convention at Quebec.

And whereas by the programme of the demonstration, it appears that a portion of the Volunteers force are to take part in such demonstration.

Resolved, as the sense of the house of this demonstration, that, it is not, and must not be, taken to evince the feeling of the majority of this house or of the people of this province as being favourable to the Union of British Colonies as settled by the Quebec conference, and further that in the event of the local forces taking part in such demonstration, such action would be highly derogatory to their true position and distasteful and displeasing to the house, and that the house entertaining these views cannot proceed to the order of the day without in the first place, in the present emergency, expressing the foregoing sentiments.

Mr. KILLAM said as the government had conceded the position, he did not see it was necessary to keep up the matter further.

Mr. BOURNOUT said that the Provincial Secretary, in the course of his second Confederation speech had stated that the petitions now on the table of the house did not show that the public opinion of Nova Scotia was opposed to this scheme of union devised at the Quebec Conference. Now he had the honour of representing one of the largest constituencies in the province; he had individually expressed no opinion against Confederation, but at the same time he could not help seeing that the public sentiment of the county was opposed to the scheme. As respects the resolution before the house, it would not have been presented at all if it had not been stated in the programme that the volunteers would form part of the contemplated procession. The Provincial Secretary had, however, stated that the volunteers were not to be present, and therefore the whole thing was at an end. He looked upon this demonstration in a different light to any member who had spoken upon the subject. Gentlemen would re-call the demonstrations that took place during the summer months. He was glad that our people had given the Canadian visitors a reception that did honour to Nova Scotia. On this occasion, however, there was an expression of opinion given in favor of union. As far as the sentiment of Halifax audiences went, it was in support of union; but that feeling was not responded to by the country. The delegation representing Nova Scotia, thinking they were representing public opinion in this province, went to Canada and agreed to the scheme which was now before the people. Every one knew what a feeling of hostility existed in all the rural districts against this proposed Confederation. Now he looked upon this demonstration as one which the citizens of Halifax were at perfect liberty to make apart from any body of men such as the Volunteers, but why was this affair got up. It was intended to exhibit sympathy for those despondent men who were coming among a population who received them so heartily last year. Every thing that could soothe their disappointment at the failure of their grand scheme would be doubtless done that night. He trusted it would have a beneficial effect upon them, but despite all this, let it be remembered, that Confederation was not and would not be adopted.

Mr. MILLER said that he rose chiefly to make a few remarks in respect to the hon. member for Halifax, (Mr. Shannon), who had the bad taste to refer, in connection with the Union agitation, to some of the disgraceful scenes witnessed in Temperance Hall. He did so, because that gen-