

into independence, and the question which would then arise would be how could that independence be maintained?

Mr C J CAMPBELL thought that the Anti-Confederates had been unfortunate in their selection of men to represent them. The disloyal sentiments propounded by the member for East Halifax in the streets, in the House, and in the press, were well known. The hon. member had seemed afraid of annexation, but he should remember that that was what he had been advocating although it was not what the people desired, and he might be pleased at getting back from England without being committed to close quarters. If the paper under the management of the hon gentleman had been sent to England during his absence that would explain the contemptuous treatment of which complaint had been made. He thought members might be more profitably employed than in answering the observations of the member East Halifax.

Hon. PROV. SEC. remarked that there was a bold line of demarcation between a desire to get rid of the colonies, and the desire expressed by the Marquis of Normanby and other speakers, that the connecting tie should be one of affection and not of force. While members of the Imperial Parliament had said that if we desired independence no compulsion would be used to retain us, they had coupled the expression with the assurance that so long as we desired to remain in the present connection we should have all the aid that our position entitled us to.—Little by little the difficulties which the friends of union had to surmount were coming to light—it was being made apparent that not only had the member for East Halifax and his associates told the Imperial Government that they should should rather spend their money upon iron-clads and Snider rifles than upon a railway which they had been for twenty-five years endeavoring to accomplish, and for which they had induced the House at one time to vote £66,000 per annum for forty years, but they had told influential gentlemen that the guarantee instead of being for twelve millions would be in reality for sixteen millions, and still the guarantee was given. He thanked the hon member for the additional credit which would devolve upon the friends of union by its being shown that they had to meet not only the statements which their opponents had ventured to make, but also those which they had, without regard to truth, poured into the ears of persons in England whom they had button-holed.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. said that the petitions must have been got up for some other purpose than that of presenting them to Parliament. He, as one of the people, had a right to complain that these gentlemen had not obtained the necessary information before presuming to instruct the people as to the course to be pursued. It could not, however, be believed that they were ignorant of the rule of the British House of Commons; and there was this additional complaint that during their stay of five or six months in London they must have ascertained that the

petitions were useless if they had devoted themselves to the object of their mission, and they could afterwards have procured proper signatures. The hon member had however given too many reasons why the petitions had not been presented—one was that there was no opportunity before the second reading of the bill; but the bill had been for days before the House of Lords, the day for its discussion was announced, and they could have been presented to the Commons the moment the bill went down. The excuse, therefore, that no time was allowed was totally insufficient; and as to the statement that the petitions were not fit to be presented, the people had a right to know the actual state of things, instead of being deceived as they were by false intelligence from time to time. Up to the last moment the people's delegates had represented that there was no possibility of the bill passing the Commons, and the Government delegates were charged with hypocrisy in holding out promises of success. If the member for East Halifax left England before the contest came on, how could he speak as he had done about the way in which the bill was received and passed in the Commons? Up to the last hour, the gentleman opposing the bill in London had ventured the assertion that he had not met the first man in England favorable to the bill, and that its passage was out of the question, and the public mind throughout the province was agitated by such representations. How did the facts contrast with those statements? Not a man out of 600 members of the House could be found to present the petitions. That was the admission that those gentlemen were obliged to make, and the time would come when they would be held answerable by the people for the delusion they had created. The friends of Union, looked round anxiously to see from what quarter opposition was to come, but they looked in vain, for those best acquainted with the Colonies supported the bill, and expressed the most friendly feeling for the Colonies, while they intimated that if our people should desire independence, no constraint would be used to prevent them, though they hoped that day would be far distant. The scene in the house of Commons when the leaders of the two great parties, in speaking the same sentiments on this question, were cheered by their opponents, was one that would not be easily effaced. Where any faint opposition was offered, the member would disavow hostility to the bill, and say that opposition would be useless, for the House was unanimous. That unanimity was the result of the conviction that union would contribute to the stability of the whole Empire. The hon. member for East Halifax had admitted the whole question in saying that the masses of the people were in favor of continuing the connection with the Colonies; our security, then, lay in the broad feeling of the people of England, and that feeling would be sure to find expression when the time of necessity came. The feeling in England was, that while the Colonies were disunited a few restless spirits, securing a majority in the smaller provinces, might destroy