

fulfillment, that, in the event of the Federation's taking place, and Canada's being invaded by French warships or any other enemy, we would be called upon to send our Militia or Volunteers to assist the Canadians to defend themselves. When probability is mixed, was there that a Province which, in confidence to itself to arms could, within 24 hours, have an army of 150,000 well disciplined men, fully equipped, and ready to encounter whatever foe might menace on small scale, and which, besides, had at its disposal a surplus revenue of one million dollars, should stand up as a disinterested, either of them or money from Prince Edward Island? Bankrupt Canada! The idea was most preposterous. This hon. member then significantly hinted to the Committee the very great probability that their determination to remain out of the Union, in opposition to the wishes of the Home Government, might prove a source of much irritation to the people, when too late, have means to repeat their having perished. As a proof that he had never contemplated the forcing of the Quebec Scheme upon the people against their will, he stated that after his return from Canada, in 1864, he had, at a public meeting of his constituents, at Belfast, told them that the question of Confederation, so far as it was intended to apply to Prince Edward Island, was one for the people—and for the people alone—to decide. The Delegation had drawn up a Report embracing a scheme of Union; but the people were at perfect liberty to accept or reject it as they themselves might think best. Because I, as one of the Island Delegates, insisted to that Scheme I have been accused of having sold my country, and been stigmatised by the name of traitor. When a clergyman, I will not say of what denomination—has declared that he has been told that I had been bribed to give my assent to that Scheme. When that rather strong charge was brought against me, it was brought equally against the other Delegates from Prince Edward Island, for we all assented to the Quebec Report, and the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Colpe), who was one of us, when—after the Conference, had terminated—publicly speaking of the Report, at the Djeunee, at Ottawa, said: "He thought they (the Delegates) had reason to congratulate themselves upon the labours of the Conference. That thirty-three men, representing the various political opinions of six different Provinces, could be assembled so and assented to their opinions as to agree upon a Constitution suited for that great Confederation, was something, he believed, such as the world had never seen before, and showed that the Delegates were worthy of the position they held. He said this, although there was no man more disappointed than himself with respect to some of that constitution; but, by mutual concessions, they had arrived at a result which they could all agree in supporting and submitting to the people; for he held that it must be submitted to the people. They could not force it on the people; they must endeavour to show them that it was for their benefit, and thus induce them to accept it." The local charge of his having been bribed to agree to the Report—a Report which was agreed to by all the Delegates—must apply equally to all the other Delegates; but it charges an assent which was not which they wish him would trumpet under foot. By a part of the Island press, it had been said that he and his brother Delegates who were advocates of the complete Federation of these Provinces were prepared to thrust it down the throats of the people. He, on the contrary—and he wished he could go forth to the public—took the very earliest opportunity which presented itself, to publish in the press that, in his opinion, it would be most unwise for the people to take any action with respect to the Quebec Scheme, until it should have been fairly put to them at the hustings. The people have not had it before them, and therefore what we say now can be but of little avail. The whole question of the House; and, at the coming election, every candidate for the suffrage of the people

will have an opportunity of declaring his sentiments concerning the Confederation Scheme, and such as shall be elected will take their seat in the Assembly duly instructed how they are to vote concerning it. If I be again returned to the House, I shall, according to the instructions of my constituents, know how to comport myself with respect to the Confederation question. As to the appointment of Delegates to a London Convention, I do not see how, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, in the question now before, would dare to make such an appointment. Before any step of this kind can be constitutionally taken, there must be an appeal to the people; and that appeal must be the first response to the approval of Confederation. I believe that the members on the floor of the House, although adverse to the terms of the Quebec Scheme, would yet willingly vote for a reconsideration of it. I believe the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition is not opposed to a Federal Union of all the Provinces; but he wants better terms than those offered us by the Quebec Scheme. He wants the very best terms which it may be possible for us to obtain; and so do I. His opposition to the Quebec Scheme is based upon his conviction that the terms which it accords us are not sufficiently favorable to our interests. I am not much in the habit of looking to members for opposition to amendments to Resolutions submitted from this side of the House. I was prepared to support the amendment, and, in good faith, I have fought with them, and done my duty in every contest which they have had with the Opposition. In the support of any particular policy, on measures to which the Conservatives have been pledged, I have never flinched. This, however, is the last Session of this House, and with it my immediate connection with the Conservatives will cease. At the ensuing General Election, if I offer myself again as a Candidate for a seat in the House, I will not do so either as a Conservative or as a Liberal; and, if elected, I will not pledge myself to support either party. I will reserve to myself the privilege of judging, for myself, independently of all party considerations. The present question is not a Government question; but a free and open one; and, therefore, in voting, as I shall do, for the amendment submitted by a member of the Opposition—the member for St. Peter's (Hon. Mr. Whelan)—I shall not be forsaking any party. The good sense and good ration of that amendment, especially when contrasted with the assumption, at once arrogant and fatuous, of the Resolutions to which it is opposed, so recommended it to my judgment and sense of propriety, that I can have no hesitation in voting for it. In speaking against the Resolution submitted by the Hon. Premier, I have done so on account of their binding character. As to the Resolution of amendment, I do not see how any member, on either side of the House, whatever his opinions concerning the Quebec Scheme may be, can object to it. But, by the other, we are called upon to exclude ourselves forever from a Confederation which, in all probability, is destined to be one of the greatest nations on the earth. What are we going to sacrifice ourselves from the community of our Sister Provinces? Are we going to stand alone to become the resort of smugglers, and a nest of homes in the sides of the Confederation?—Do we suppose that Her Majesty's Government will allow such a political isolation? Will not our declared hostility to any scheme of Union, which will include Prince Edward Island, in opposition to the well-considered and truly parental desire of the Government of Great Britain, be very likely so far to alienate them, as to cause them to legitimate to us in the Confederation even against our will? As to the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, I have the highest respect for him, both politically and socially; and although voting against the Resolutions submitted by him, I am not voting against the Government of which he is the Leader. The Confederation question is a Government question (Hon. Mr. Colpe). "It would be, though," I will not say whether the question might or might not be made a Government question. Government questions, however, must have been made constitutionally if without an appeal to the people. But I will ask, how can the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition say that all his own or others' constituents shall be presented to Confederation, even although he may have been elected to oppose the scheme as to the form of the Confederation? Results of a most serious character have occurred since then, and in consequence of the