

in Parliamentary grants, all tended to knit their affections. In addition, the great number of military and navy who had become inhabitants and the liberality displayed to settlers. Beside the personal welfare and comfort of so many of our people depended on the expenditure of public money which flowed freely hither in naval and military channels and otherwise."

Things like these make a great many people intensely loyal. Take away their salaries and their cocked hats, and their honours, and they become a good deal like other people. I am not going to acknowledge that I am not as loyal as any gentleman who sits on their benches. I love, and wish to live under British institutions, I have no desire to change them: but if we are to have a change, if it is necessary, should not every man be at liberty to say how that change should be made. Should we press the people into Union with a country with which they have no wish to unite, and not allow them to express their opinions? It is said that the people of Yarmouth are disloyal—I deny it, they are as loyal, and have done as much to show it, as any people in the province. When we see our present institutions about to be swept away, it is enough to rouse our feelings and passions.

Gentlemen have had an opportunity of watching my public conduct for very many years in this house and country, but can any of them say that I have had any other object in view except the advancement of this province. I have done much to place the present party in power; but when I came here and found that they were about to desert the principles on which I had supported them, I left them, and assumed an independent position. I have pursued this course whenever the interests of my country demanded it. I did as much as anyone to advocate the retrenchment scheme, and was pledged to support it. It has been charged against me in a paper supporting the government that I and another hon. member would not sustain them because I could not get office. The Provincial Secretary knows that I never wanted office; I was above it; I have business enough of my own to attend to. I do not think myself suited for office. I have been tied up to indoor business; but I had my eyes about me, and saw through the designs of some political gentlemen. If I had been disposed to yield to some of them, I could have had anything that I wanted; but that is foreign to my nature. If I can support a government on principle, I must leave them. Now these gentlemen with whom I was formerly associated come here to barter away the rights and interests of the people of Nova Scotia. There is no principle in a course like that. It is beneath the dignity of statesmen to do such a thing, in the face of public sentiment. Such a union could never last; there would be no unity of feeling and sympathy. Suppose an election were to come off to-morrow, how many of the gentlemen who are pressing forward this unjust measure may expect to see Ottawa? Hardly one of them. The members that will go to Canada will carry with them a feeling of hostility to this Province—they will bring discord into the councils of the Confederation; your present conduct can lead to no other result. The members of this House know the sentiments of our people, from Cape Sable to Cape North, and should hesitate before pressing this measure rashly upon them. We should allow more time for the consideration of a question fraught with such important results. There is no necessity whatever for dealing with this subject with such intemperate haste. It is reported, from day to day, that we are to be invaded by a band of robbers called Fenians, who wish to seize and destroy our property; and yet, at this critical time, you are going to agitate and distract the people of the country, and to divide one section against another. The people are quite prepared to meet any invaders, and with the help of Great Britain, they will be successful—why then this haste? I do trust that if any words of mine can have any effect on this House, that a majority will not be found ready to sell their country to the Canadians. If the day should come when Nova Scotia will be wrested from us and given to Canada, it will be one of mourning and lamentation among the

people. Of course we shall have to submit to it—for I am not going to counsel rebellion.

We are going to disturb all our financial arrangements, and hand into the Canadian treasury much more than we can expect to receive. We have had revenue enough for our purposes, and when it was not sufficient we have raised the duties to suit ourselves. If any money is spent improperly it is soon made up, and we are able to exercise the strictest supervision over our expenditures. But now we are about to entrust the extensive power to the Parliament at Ottawa, to be used as the Canadians may choose. The sum of 80 cents a head that we are to receive is a most contemptible amount to offer to a people for the amount of money they are to put into the treasury. We have now a large revenue, and there is every reason to believe that as our public works are extended we shall be able to meet our liabilities. It will be far more satisfactory to have the management of our own revenues, and to be able to raise the duties when we think proper, than to entrust the power to a Legislature 800 miles off.

Our trade with Canada is small, not as much as with Newfoundland or New Brunswick, while the population is ten times as great. Our exports to that Province are mostly of Foreign productions. The estimate on which our revenue and expenditure is based for the current year, now in the hands of every member, shows that all we should have to apply for provincial purposes, including the 80 cents per head, would only amount to \$419,000 out of a gross revenue of about \$1,500,000. I have not closely estimated myself what our imports of 1865 with the Canadian tariff would have amounted to, but have been informed by a competent person who has done so, that it would have added \$689,000—enough to pay the interest on the \$8,000,000 of debt proposed to be assumed by the General Government, and leave \$220,000. How is our education, educational institutions, roads, bridges, Lunatic Asylum, Penitentiaries, Legislative expenses, and improvements and casualties of every kind to be provided for. The \$419,000 is very little over half we have in the estimate for this year for similar purposes, with the present tariff. Mr. Speaker I thank you and the House for the very attentive hearing you have given on this important subject.

SPEECH OF THE HON. FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

Mr. McDONALD then said:—The present question is one of the most important subjects that can engage the attention of a free people, involving as it does their political rights and condition for all time. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that each member of this house, in the discharge of his duty to his constituents, should be desirous of placing on record the sentiments by which he is influenced in coming to the conclusion at which he may arrive. This is the only excuse I shall offer in detaining the house with a few remarks on the resolution under consideration. The arguments for and against Confederation have been widely disseminated throughout the country—the subject in the form of the Quebec scheme has been discussed in this house by the Delegates who originated it, on the public platform, and in the columns of the press. The people therefore, we may assume, are more or less familiar with the grounds and reasons on which the framers and supporter of the measure ask public support. It will not be necessary for me, under these circumstances, to go at any length into the arguments which have influenced my own mind. Since this debate arose nothing has been evolved that has not already appeared in the press of the opponents of the scheme. The advocates of Union to-night have not to meet a single argument that has not been previously consider-