

seats; did his worst opponent say anything then about an appeal to the people? No, the whole matter was discussed without such a question being raised. If, when I quote the acts of the conservative party, I am met with the answer from gentlemen on this side that this is poor authority, I ask did we (the liberal party) not within a short time, feeling that the franchise was too extensive, and that the time had come when the property of the country should be represented by the property holders, pass a bill striking down one-third, if not one-half of the electors. There was no appeal to the people in that case, this house did not ask it, although it was sought by a gentleman in the Upper House. Am I not therefore acting in accordance with the policy of my party, who maintained that the people were here represented by their representatives?—Let me come now to another time. Had we not in 1864 a resolution brought into the legislature, by the leading minds upon both sides, for the Union of the Maritime Provinces? Not to confederate them, but to unite them under one government and legislature. Was anything said about an appeal to the people then? No; it was said that the delegates should return, in order that we, the legislature, might ratify their arrangements. I ask the house whether or not, if the legislature of the different Colonies had accepted a scheme of legislative union of the Maritime Provinces, there would have been an appeal to the people? We have heard about traitors to the country, and traitors to the party. We are told that the Liberal party are opposed to the scheme, and my position is not at all agreeable to my friends who sit beside me, or to myself, in separating from them. I got my liberalism very early: I drew it with my earliest breath and learned its principles at the feet of such men as Dr. McCulloch and Jotham Blanchard; and I claim to have been as consistent a member of that party as any one in Nova Scotia, here or elsewhere. What was the watchword of that party? They have always claimed as their watchword, Reform and Progress,—and that this movement is a progressive one, I firmly believe. This is a measure of progress, and if opposition was to be expected, we had little reason to look for it among the Liberals of the country. I feel that I have not forsaken Liberal principles and that it would be as hard to do so as for the "Ethiopian to change his skin or the leopard his spots." I feel that I am where I ought to be and where I wish every liberal in the country was following our principles to their legitimate end, going forward and not adhering to the old fogy and tory principles of keeping every thing in the old position without making an advance, and opposing every change, just because it is change. As I said, I was brought up a liberal, as I advanced in life I surpassed the leaders of the liberal party. When I first came into this house, under a good deal of temptation and trial, I sustained William Young and Joseph Howe in their principles, and if I am to be told that I am deserting the party now I reply that I do not feel ashamed to follow the liberal *par excellence* of British America, the hon. George Brown and Mr. Tilley of New Brunswick, men who are liberals to the heart's core, men who have long fought for the principles of their party,

and under their flag and in their ranks I am not ashamed to stand. Coming home I ask whether when I am in association with the leader of the opposition in this House and in the other, and assisting in carrying forward the question so long and so on proposed by the liberal party of this country, I am not where a liberal should be found. It was not my intention to address the house at length, and I will not continue longer. The principles which I now maintain are those of the party of progress; we have with us the young men of Nova Scotia, who are identified with its future progress—the best and most intelligent men in all the provinces, and all who look forward to being not merely Nova Scotians, Canadians, or New Brunswickers, but citizens of British North America, and all who desire to see our country occupying her true position. With their assistance these objects must be soon attained.

REMARKS OF MR. TOWNSEND.

Mr. TOWNSEND spoke substantially as follows:—I feel a great deal of reluctance in rising to address the house on the present occasion, when I see all the legal talent arrayed against me on this important question. I feel, however, that I stand here with the great masses of the people at my back. I contend that we have no right to deal with the question; the people did not send us here to deal with it; they do not yet know its merits. I cannot believe that such immense advantages will spring from Union as some gentlemen profess to see ahead. You cannot force trade out of its natural channels. The State of Maine, and not Nova Scotia, is the natural frontier of Canada. The interests of the people do not lie in the direction of connection with Canada. As far as my own people are concerned, I know if you were to ask them if they would prefer Annexation to Confederation, they would answer, yes. Their commercial interests are intimately bound up with those of the United States, and it is not therefore surprising that such a sentiment should prevail.—They say, give us connection with a country that will protect us. Canada cannot take care of us. I do not feel this way myself, but still I know what I state is perfectly correct. I know that, simple man as I am, I cannot change your sentiments on this question. All the leading talent of the house is against it.—We have no leader; I do not acknowledge the hon. member for East Halifax as such. The leader of the Opposition is with the Government on this question; he supports them on the School Bill and Confederation, and I am only surprised that he is not one of their number. I deny that Mr. Annand is my leader. Can I take a man that says a thing on the street, and then comes here to prove it? I have yet to hear the arguments to satisfy me of the necessity for this Confederation. Is it advisable to unite with a country with such large debts and duties? to have to pay for the enlargement of her canals, and extension of her railways? A large proportion of our population are fishermen and heavy consumers, and under Confederation when you increase the duties you must increase their expenses. The Intercolonial Railway will only benefit us so far as it connects us with St. John. You cannot carry flour in quantity for any great dis-