

become impoverished and, as was said the other day, that she should come begging for annexation and that we were connected with her, what security would we have for our British connection, I repeat that I am opposed to any scheme of union that will not contain a provision for an improvement in the relations of the Empire.—Looking at it from an English point of view it will be seen that the Colonies having separated from the parent state the Empire will become, to use a common phrase, demoralized, and its extent will be confined to the limits of the British Islands. That is the view in which the question should be regarded by British Statesmen. By such a scheme as that which I have proposed the onus of a settlement would be thrown on those who really oppose it. That is the mode in which I would approach the question of union,—I would be willing to advocate such a cause if the subject be pressed upon us, but I have yet to hear the first substantial argument in favour of Confederation. If the policy of union be pressed upon us by the Imperial Government let us labour to procure such a scheme as will be acceptable to the Colonies, — let it be a union of the hearts and wills of the people not one forced upon them. We were elected for a different purpose,—the questions before the people at the time when we were elected were violations of law and order, questions relating to re-nrenchment, to the suffrage, the question of turning out of office one set of gentlemen who had held power for four years. The question of a change in their constitution was therefore not before them. It would be a rash thing on the part of this legislature to say that the men elected to carry out the “well understood wishes of the people” should ratify a scheme of union against the repeated protests which have been made. If we are to be united let us approach the question in a right spirit, and not in the tone of temper which was indulged in the other day. Looking at the great future of these Provinces let us consider, not only what would be best for us, but what will be best for our children coming after us.

#### REPLY OF HON. PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

Dr. TUPPER said:—The hon. gentleman has raised a question of such deep importance and interest to the people of the Province that I feel it my duty, as a member of the Legislature, to take immediate notice of the observations which has fallen from him. When an hon. gentleman undertakes, in the face of this Legislature, to lead the public sentiment of this country on a question of deep import to the whole Province, it becomes necessary that he should place himself in a position to receive the confidence and respect of the members of the House, and the people they represent. I think if there is a gentleman in this Legislature—I will go further and say if there is a gentleman in this country, who, by his own conduct, has forfeited all claim to the respect and confidence of this House in relation to a great question of public policy, it is the hon. member who has just sat down, and I shall feel it my duty to put briefly before this House and country the grounds up-

on which I assume the responsibility of making this assertion.

The hon. member has just stated to the House that he has yet to hear the first argument in favor of Union between these Provinces of British North America. I ask this House what are they to think of a gentleman claiming the position, not of a leader of a party, but even of an honest and straight-forward representative of this legislature, who will dare to utter such a sentiment as that, when they know that here recorded in the public journals of the country is the declaration of that hon. member, as a statesman, as a member of Parliament, as a member of the Executive Council, asking the House to confirm the declaration which he had made, that so great and so many were the advantages of a Union of British North America, that the time had arrived when it was necessary to clothe the Government of the country with power to deal with the question? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. ANNAND—No, no!

Dr. TUPPER—The hon. member may deny what he likes. It is not a question of affirmation or denial. The journals under my hand have only to be opened, and there upon the page stands the indelible record that no denial will wipe away, by which the hon. member committed himself to the policy of a Union of British North America.

Mr. ANNAND—Will the hon. gentleman turn to the journals?

Dr. TUPPER—I shall turn to them for the hon. gentleman's satisfaction as he seems to have a very short memory, and show him the resolution, and the action of the government in relation to it. He, as a member of the Cabinet, actually initiated the policy of a Union of British North America—he called not only the attention of the House to the subject, but asked the several governments of British North America to hold such a Convention as would ascertain the best mode of dealing with the question. What are we to think of a gentleman who, having come forward as a member of the government and affirmed such a principle as that, and obtained the support of the House to that principle, now attempts to insult the intelligence of the people of this country by telling them, years afterwards, “that he has yet to hear the first argument in favour of a Union of British North America.”—He has professed respect for the British Government—but he has trampled down the authority of the government under his feet. I ask him to read the despatches which have emanated from the Imperial Government, and, if they are entitled to such respect, do they not contain arguments enough in favour of a Union of British North America?

I have shown you in the outset that the hon. member has treated the Legislature as devoid of ordinary intelligence when he has undertaken to say that the action to which he invited the attention of this House on a former occasion was invited dishonestly by him. Are we or are we not to suppose that the views and sentiments which he placed before the Legislature then were entirely at variance with those he actually held? If the hon. member had told us that like a weathercock he shifted with every changing breeze—that he changed his views from hour to hour, then I could feel that though his views were unworthy of respect,