

Mr. MILLER.—The hon. member has brought two charges against my veracity. First, with regard to the conversation with Mr. Brown which he now admits to be substantially true. Secondly, with regard to the petitions which he presented here on the day I explained my position on the question. He accused me of having sent these particular petitions to Inverness, and I denied it on the instant. I never denied that I was a party to sending petitions through the country. He now admits that he sent and franked these petitions himself. Where, then, is his charge of want of veracity on either side?

Mr. ANNAND.—The hon. member was one of an organization in the city who unfortunately had too much confidence in him; for it now appears he was only there as a spy. On one occasion in the presence of some of the most influential merchants of the city, so inflated was he that he offered to take charge of the whole island of Cape Breton, and send petitions to it. The hon. gentlemen told you that I, with my own stamp, sent these petitions to Dr. Cameron, but I did so at his request, because he said he did not wish to come into conflict with Mr. McDonnell. The hon. member thought so much of his own shillings and pence that he would not take his own stamps. The hon. gentlemen said that I dictated the paper in question; but can you believe that a gentleman of his importance, who offered to take charge of the whole island of Cape Breton, would allow any one to dictate to him? All I can say is, the hon. member wrote it with his own hands.

Mr. TOBIN.—I think we have had about enough of these contradictions, and I do trust that a question of such importance as the present will be deliberately and calmly discussed.

Mr. MILLS.—I was the hon. member for East Halifax who brought the matter here, and he also is blameable for the discussion that has ensued. I thought, when the hon. gentleman got up, he was going to expose me but now I find that all he has done is to bring a charge of vanity against me.

Hon. ATTY. GEN.—I recollect distinctly yesterday when the hon. member for Richmond gave the version of the conversation with Mr. Brown, the hon. member for East Halifax got up and contradicted it; now he says it is substantially the same version. But we all know the hon. gentleman's speech was not intended for this house. The object was to irritate the public mind of this country.

A good deal of further desultory conversation ensued, which it is impossible to give in *extenso*.

Mr. BLACKWOOD thought every gentleman should be only held responsible for the opinions he held and expressed himself.

Mr. LOCKE said that the country had not petitioned very early during the present session, inasmuch as the impression prevailed that the question of Union would not come up.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that he was prepared by the most conclusive evidence to prove that the whole effect of the policy of the Anti-Union party was to annex us to the American

States. He then went on to say that they dared not send petitions to the country against all Union, for they knew that the Union sentiment among the intelligent masses was very strong. All that they could do was to get signatures to petitions taking objections to certain features of the Quebec scheme. Yet despite the efforts made by the wealthy and powerful Anti-Union organization in this city, only about 15000 names of men, women and children, could be got last year in the whole province. He had himself in a few weeks, some years ago, got 25000 persons to petition for a matter of comparatively small importance, namely a dissolution of the Assembly. Now another year had passed, and despite all the agitation in the press and otherwise, only four or five thousand petitioners appeared in opposition—not to Union, but to some details of the Quebec scheme. Now when the opponents of that scheme came forward and offered to meet the friends of Union half way, it was the duty of the latter to consent, in view of the prevalent sentiment of the country. He had heard from Annapolis and the Western counties and was proud to be able to say that the course the government wished to pursue in respect to Union met with the enthusiastic approval of the people.

Mr. LOCKE said that the government had appealed to three constituencies since the question of Confederation came up, and had lost them. If the hon. Provincial Secretary was convinced that the people were not opposed to Union why did not he dissolve and appeal to them.

Mr. BLANCHARD said that the house had heard the way the petitions against Confederation got into the country, and yet despite all the efforts that had been made, only a few hundred names had been received from Inverness with a population of 20 000 people.

Mr. KILLAM said that the people of Yarmouth were against confederation. He knew that the people of Digby were also opposed to Union. He presumed when the vote was taken, the members of that county would act in accordance with the sentiments of their constituents.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. said that no gentleman in favour of Annexation would be expected to favour Confederation.

Mr. ROSS said that it had been understood in Victoria that the question of Confederation would not come up this session, and therefore it was not thought necessary to get up petitions. The best way to test the feeling of the people would be to appeal to them.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that the election in Annapolis was not decided on the Confederation scheme. The Dalhousie College question, the Picou Railway and the School Bill were the questions that influenced the election. The Quebec scheme had only just been propounded when the election was over, and was not one of the issues. Not one word was said about it on the hustings. At a public meeting subsequently held in that county where he had been present, the Anti-Unionists could not pass a resolution against Union. Again in the shiretown the only resolution passed was one of thanks to himself.