

this Legislature better than the Quebec scheme. There has never been any measure of Union submitted to this house for its deliberation. Instead of bringing back what they agreed on they have put their hands to an Act of Parliament. We are hereafter to be bound by a paper constitution which has never been submitted to us for our consideration. No more important question than this was ever before the people of this country. If this bill is passed we are deprived of the power of hereafter legislating for ourselves. We shall certainly have a voice in the General Parliament, but that the people don't want at all. Nothing can reconcile the people to the manner in which this measure is being forced upon them. They might have submitted to an Act of Union, if the British Parliament and people had declared that it was positively necessary for Imperial purposes, but that has not been the case. It appears by the papers that Her Majesty's Ministers have all the time been under the delusion that in promoting the measure they are pleasing the people of Nova Scotia—a delusion created and fostered by the delegates. It is not difficult to understand the motives that have prompted the delegates to take the course they have. These politicians wish to put themselves out of the power of the people—to obtain place and emolument without the wishes of the people being at all consulted. The public men of New Brunswick dissolved the legislature when they returned from Quebec, and the people returned a large majority opposed to Union with Canada. Another election subsequently took place, and the people, for some reason or other, reversed the verdict they had given previously. So the people of New Brunswick have been appealed to twice on this question, whilst the people of Nova Scotia have not been consulted even once. The course pursued by these gentlemen is, as far as I know, unprecedented in the history of legislation. Even Napoleon did better than they have done. I look upon this Act of Parliament, if it is passed, as destroying the colonial system.

If British colonies anywhere find that their rights and privileges can be transferred at any time to another country against their wishes—to some other people with whom they can have no sympathy—they will feel that their security and prosperity rest upon a very insecure basis. The people of Nova Scotia are not the only ones opposed to that measure; for we have reason to believe that a large number of the Lower Canadians entertain similar views. Nearly one half of the people of New Brunswick are opposed to the measure. We know how few people it takes to turn the scales in an election. It is quite true that measures often pass the Legislature which are very objectionable to the people, but they know that the time will come when they will be able to express their opinions on these obnoxious measures, and have them repealed. Now, however, you are to fasten a measure upon them which will fetter them for all time—hand them over to Canada for ever. I agree with the hon. member for Guysboro',

that this scheme states a fatal blow at the connection between these colonies and the mother country. Nova Scotia has always hitherto been considered a loyal province. I feel as loyal as any person in this house; I have not been ready to bow down to the authority of every person, but I pay respect to the laws and the government under which I live. I have British feelings in my breast, I feel proud to see England great and prosperous, but a measure of this kind must create discontent among the whole population of this province. The majority in this house who decide against the people assume a very grave responsibility. Many of them will regret it deeply if they act contrary to the sentiments of the people. We are too near a great country to be trifled with in a matter of this kind. Let no one attempt to make the people believe that the British government would barter away their rights unfairly. Let gentlemen consider, therefore, the great responsibility that rests upon them in the present important emergency, and decide wisely before it is too late.

Speech of Hon. Prov. Secretary.

Dr. TUFER replied as follows:—I feel by no means disposed to find fault with the mode and temper in which this subject has been approached. No doubt the hon. mover of the amendment, in confining himself mainly to the constitutional point which he has raised, felt that the peculiar circumstances under which the House meets—the very advanced period of the session and the necessity of dealing immediately with certain portions of the public business which will not admit of postponement—induced him to limit his remarks to the range he has done. The hon. member who has seconded the resolution, with that due regard to the public time which he has always shown, felt also that this was not an occasion when a great deal of debatable matter should be opened up. I intend to follow the example of these hon. gentlemen, and shall as succinctly as possible deal with the constitutional point that has been raised, without going into any lengthy observations on the great subject which is brought under the consideration of the House.

It would have been perhaps too much to expect that the hon. members opposite who entertain very strong opinions on this question should not have availed themselves of the present opportunity of putting upon record their views and opinions in reference to the Address. As one of the advisers of His Excellency I would have been glad, had it been possible, if a different course had been pursued and no debatable issue had been raised on the Address. That course on the present occasion seems to have been impossible, and I must frankly admit that I was fully prepared for an amendment from the hon. gentlemen. I may say with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I feel I can approach this question under circumstances upon which I may congratulate the government, the Legislature, and the country. As far as I am individually