

newspaper. He would like his bon. friend to shew the book where it is laid down that, if a man is in doubt, it is ungentlemanly to say he doubts; and if no other charge than that could be brought against him, then he should go through life without being thought by very many as a "low fellow." It was said that the reference to the newspaper paragraph was extraordinary, but then the circumstances were extraordinary. The hon. member on his left had said that at one time he did not believe the question of Union came from the Queen, and had since found out that it did. He thought it was rather hard to find out what had never occurred, and on this question he wished to say a few words. It was probable that Her Majesty had never seen the dispatch which was sent from this Government to Mr. Cardwell, nor that from him to us. But however that might be, it was certain that the question of Union did not at first come from the British Government, or that the so-called delegates had any "just authority" to confer on the question of Confederation. In the report of the correspondence between Nova Scotia and Mr. Cardwell, on the Union of the Maritime Provinces, in a letter under date September 29th, 1864, Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell says:

"My Ministry are very anxious for the appointment of delegates from this Province to confer at Quebec with delegates from the other Maritime Provinces and Canada. The subject of the Conference is intended to be the feasibility of a Union, whether Federal or Legislative, of all British North America. Even Newfoundland is sending a representation; and as the Conference is intended to commence on the 10th October, it would be impossible for the representatives of Nova Scotia to reach Quebec at that date, if I await your sanction to their appointment by the mail due at Halifax on the 12th October."

There is no authority from the British Government for the Convention here. He goes on to say:

"I find, however, on further enquiry, that no official invitation such as I could recognize has been yet received from Lord Monck, adequate to justify my nominating representatives of this Province to a Conference, where, strictly speaking, they should not proceed at all, without your previous sanction."

There is no authority yet. And again, on the 1st October, Mr. Cardwell replied:

"I have to thank you for the interesting intelligence you have conveyed to me, and to state, with reference to your request for authority to permit certain members of your Executive Council to repair to Quebec, were to resume the discussion of this subject, that I have received an intimation from Lord Monck that he intends communicating with me upon it."

So that up to the 1st October, only a few days before the meeting of the delegates, no dispatch had been received by Mr. Cardwell from Lord Monck on the subject, and the British Government had given no authority for such a Conference.

They had all, at one time or another,

been in favor of a Union of some kind, but this scheme of Confederation was the grafting of old principles upon a new stock, and, consequently, could bring forth nothing but fungi and rottenness.

Mr. Anglin then read from a paper, the organ of Mr. J. A. S. MacDonald, to show that that gentleman had said that Canada was virtually without a Government, and it was to fill that want that this plan of Confederation was brought up. Here the secret sessions were first originated, and why? Because their deliberations could not bear the light. No, they loved the darkness, and it seems very much adapted to the politicians of Canada. And so, by involving these Lower Provinces in ruin, a plan was laid by which a Government could be provided for Canada. The scheme was matured and presented to the people of this Province. Mr. MacDonald says it was to be put through the three Legislatures at once and he (Mr. Anglin) thought that the bold stand taken by the Chief Commissioner of the Board of Works was the means of saving to us the liberties of this people. The people here solemnly announced their decision; they had been told that it must be passed without any change, either the dotting of an i or the crossing of a t, and then after all this, and the matter, so far as we were concerned, was concluded, they had the audacity and insolence to speak for the people of this Province, and appeal to Great Britain to pass a law enforcing Union upon us. Under such circumstances had the Government not the right to clothe the expression of their loyalty in such words as would show to the British Government that they rightly estimated the liberties of the people as well as the privileges of the Throne.

Mr. Anglin then read from page 204 of the Journals of Assembly for last Session an extract from the despatches laid before the House by the Government to shew the Lieut. Governor had received a copy of the Resolutions from Lord Monck, and that, when submitted to the Canadian Parliament, the 24th section had been altered. These Resolutions, which we were told could not be departed from on one lot, were coolly altered to suit the wishes of Canada without consulting with the various parties interested. That section, as passed by the Conference, was as follows:

"The local Legislature of each Province may, from time to time, alter the electoral districts for the purpose of representation in the House of Commons, and distribute the representatives to which the Province is entitled in any manner such Legislature may think fit."

But, instead of the words "in the House of Commons," as they called the General Assembly, they substituted the words "in each local Legislature."

Now if Canada could serve us in such a manner when treating with us on the preliminaries—if they would thus alter the great charter of our rights, is it to be expected that they would treat us otherwise afterwards? It appears that after they had gone over the whole matter and decided upon it—after even a clear draft was made of the resolutions, they found that a mistake had been made. But did the Canadians thus alter

the schema without the assent of, or consultation with, our delegates. The Hon. Mr. Steves, in reply to a circular addressed to the delegates by the Provincial Secretary, at the request of the Lieutenant Governor, says:

"I beg to state for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that my consent has not been requested to any change in the wording of the resolutions agreed to by the Conference held at Quebec in October last, subsequently to their signature."

J. M. Johnson, Esq., says the same, although his letter is not given. Hon. Mr. Chandler says:

"I have to say that no such consent was requested, nor was I made aware of any change being made in the wording of any of the resolutions, after the same were agreed to at the Conference."

The Hon. P. Mitchell says the same. The Hon. J. H. Gray says the same, only, unfortunately, he says too much. He says:

"No such consent was asked of me, nor have I directly or indirectly received any communication upon such a subject."

This would have been sufficient, but, unfortunately for the result, he goes on to add:

"And if I may be permitted to add the expression of my personal belief, I do not believe that in the wording of the original resolutions, as signed by myself and others of the delegates, any alteration whatever has been made."

Mr. Tilley was the only one of the delegates who was consulted, and he remarks that he did not give his consent to a change in the decision of the Conference. He also says that in a letter he had received from Mr. Galt, that gentlemen had asked, "if there was not a mistake in the wording of the 24th resolution in the record signed by the members of the Conference at Montreal, leaving to the local Legislatures the power of determining the electoral limits of the Confederate Legislature. I find this letter on file, but I cannot now remember whether or not I answered it; if I did I have not kept a copy."

We had all heard of the very wonderful manner in which the business in the office of the Provincial Secretary was carried on, but he would not say anything against that gentleman, as he had made it a point, both in his public and private life, not to remark upon the proceedings of those who were not in a position to reply, and he was sure that gentleman would bear him out in the remark, that he had on all occasions refrained from any personal expressions calculated to wound his feelings. Again, another delegate says in his reply to the circular:

"My assent was never requested to any change in the resolutions agreed to by the Conference held at Quebec in October last."

He goes on to say: