

"His Excellency has never ceased to urge on Mr. Smith, the expediency, and indeed necessity of a bold avowal of his intended policy; nor, has he failed to express his apprehensions as to the consequences of delay in doing so, believing that until that avowal was made, Mr. Smith would become daily more and more entangled in contradictory pledges, from which he would find it impossible to extricate himself, and which might act most prejudicially on the prospects of the cause; whilst at any time circumstances might call for such action on the part of His Excellency as would place him in a position of apparent antagonism to his Council and prove productive of very serious embarrassment. This course, however, the Government did not pursue, and it became more and more apparently clear to His Excellency that they lacked the power—he will not suppose they lacked the will—to carry out their original intentions. Their opposition to the particular form of union agreed to at Quebec, was distinct and emphatic, whilst their approval of even an abstract union of an uncertain character, became daily more vague and uncertain."

"They lacked the power to carry out their original intentions?" Who told him so? Had the Government shown any signs of weakness? No, they were surrounded and supported by the friends who had stood by them and who would do so again. His Excellency acknowledges that a Select Committee was to have been appointed to consider a plan of Union, yet before the answer in reply to the Address had passed through the House, before any papers had been, or could be brought down, whilst a vote of Want of Confidence was pending, and before it was possible to take any action in regard to the matter, the Governor coolly informs his Council that it was apparent to him that they lacked the power to carry out their intentions. When, he would ask, did the Government say they lacked the power? Never.

"Declarations were, it is said, publicly made that no proposition for a Union would be made during the present Session, and arguments were reported to be used by members and supporters of the Government not only against the Quebec Scheme, but of a character applying with equal force to any plan of whatever description, for a closer Union with Canada."

On more than one occasion His Excellency noticed these facts to Mr. Smith, who replied that the reports received by His Excellency as to the language used were inaccurate; that it was desirable not to indicate too soon the line he meant to take, as it would give an advantage to his opponents and might estrange some of his friends."

Again he would ask, Had he not again and again said in reply to questions from members in opposition, that the Government had no scheme to introduce? It was for the House to decide whose veracity was to be doubted on this point,—to decide not on the grounds that the Governor was a great man and he a humble one, but on the broad principles of truth and right.

Mr. HATHAWAY wished to ask his hon. colleague if the question as to who should constitute the Committee was not discussed.

Mr. SMITH replied that it was, not only between the Governor and himself, but between His Excellency and Mr. Odell.

"In the desire to avoid giving any cause of embarrassment to his Government, and at their request, His Excellency delayed for nineteen days the reception of the Address of Legislative Council, in reply to the Speech from the Throne; nor was it until it became evident to His Excellency that further delay in this respect would seriously imperil the harmony of the relations between himself and the Legislative Council, and the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, that he fixed a day for its reception."

The Government explained their position to His Excellency, and desired that he should not reply to the address of the Upper Branch till the address in reply had passed through the House. They, however, would not ask it as a favor, but desired him to act constitutionally. In spite, however, of their expressed wishes, and contrary to all experience and practice, the Governor saw fit to receive and reply to the address of the Upper House. He says that he was afraid there was going to be a collision between him and the Legislative Council if he should delay any longer. Who, he would ask, frightened His Excellency with this idea? Was it the friends of the Government? Was it their enemies? It was not hard to decide. They found that the Government had a majority on the no confidence motion then going on, and to bring matters to an issue they had to act in this way, and so prevented the Government from appointing a Special Committee.

"Mr. Smith frequently expressed a hope that the Lieutenant Governor did not entertain any doubt as to the sincerity of his intentions in carrying out to the letter the understanding between them, as to the passage of resolutions on the subject of union."

At length the presentation of the Address to the Queen by the Legislative Council brought the question to a decided issue.

Up to that time the Government had given no public sign, of an intention to grapple with the question, or to substitute any amended scheme of union for that agreed to at Quebec and the Lieutenant Governor in accordance with his instructions—as the Representative of the Queen—and as an officer of the Imperial Government—could not but feel it his duty to express satisfaction at the avowed approval, by one branch of the Provincial Legislature, of a policy the adoption of which had been recommended by him in His Sovereign's name, and by her command, at the opening of the Session.

If the Lieutenant Governor's Advisers cannot concur in the sentiments, and decline to become responsible for their utterance by His Excellency, it is not difficult to find a remedy, as they have done, the resignation of the officers held by them.

His Excellency accepts their resignations with regret; his relations with his Advisers during the past year have been harmonious and cordial;—for many among their number he enters

tains strong feelings of personal esteem; nor can he forget to acknowledge the attention which his views have generally received at their hands, or the readiness with which his wishes have on most occasions been met by them. But he has no doubt as to the course which it is his duty to pursue in obedience to his Sovereign's commands, and in the interests of the people of British America."

In retiring from office, the members of the Government had left no constitutional right impaired. They had yielded to His Excellency on that question; they did not wish to come into collision with him, or with the Imperial Parliament. They found that Canada was pushing for Union, and the Imperial Parliament yielding to their wishes, and here there had been men who had been in the councils of Canada, Downing Street and the Lieutenant Governor, and who could for some time say, "We shall have a dissolution," and could point almost to the day and hour it would occur. Surrounded by all this pressure, the Government stood not for themselves, but for the rights of the people, and in going out the Governor might well speak of the readiness with which they complied with his wishes.

"His Excellency may be in error, but he believes that a vast change has already taken place on this subject in New Brunswick, and he fully anticipates that the House of Assembly will yet return a response to the communication made to them not less favourable to the principle of Union than that given by the Upper House; and he relies with confidence on the desire of a great majority of the people of the Province to aid in building up a powerful and prosperous Nation, under the sovereignty of the British Crown."

A change in the feelings of the people! Did he reckon on that? Never would that House be found passing a Scheme that had been forced upon the people. He was proud to say that even confident as had expressed their disapprobation of the procedure of the Governor and the Legislative Council, and that even they would stand firm for constitutional rights. If the constitution was to be taken away, let it be done in a constitutional manner. If the people were to decide in favor of the Quebec Scheme, he would not raise one word against their decision, but whenever and as long as he found the rights of the people being trampled upon, he would stand up and fight to maintain them.

"The Council also express dissatisfaction at His Excellency's personal conduct in regard to his relations with them."

This is a matter of infinitely less importance to the public, and will be very shortly dealt with by His Excellency, although as he has met at all times with the utmost courtesy and consideration from the Members of the Government, it would be a source of sincere regret to him to believe that he was justly liable to such imputation as was made.

Let a bearing member of the Opposition was more than once committed to by His Excellency, is perfectly true. This communication was made to Mr. Smith, I know, and in the belief on His Excellency's part, that it would facilitate Mr. Smith's accom-