

That Government must have known that they could not stifle public opinion by bringing the troops here; but we must make some allowance for the hon. member for Murray Harbor, as he had been brought up under strong discipline. He should remember that there is no simile between this Island and the antipodes, and that the spirit of British Americans cannot be kept down and trodden upon like that of Europeans. As the Tenant League was crushed, the people waited patiently till the next election came round, and then displaced the party that had trampled upon them. There was a great cause for the formation of this association, for it would be impossible to get up such an organization as this without a reason why. Why did not the Confederate party who were high in office under the late Government, get up an association for the purpose of furthering their object? Simply because that object was unjust and unreasonable. The Conservatives when in power, could not be mistaken as to the condition of the country, for even the Spy in his report showed the state of the people, and the effects of the rent-paying system. When we reflect that to man was given dominion over the creatures, and that no man has a right to claim exclusive right to the lands of any country, is it any wonder that the law was broken in this instance? The troops were brought here to damage the character of the people of this Island as much as possible—to create the impression in the Mother Country that we were not worthy or capable of governing ourselves; and thereby to get this Colony forced into Confederation against the consent of its inhabitants. But I do not say that all the members of the late Government had this object in view. Such despotic measures and foul schemes had never been resorted to, even in unhappy Ireland on the eve of its union with Great Britain. I believe the hon. Leader of the Opposition was favorable to Confederation because he thought it would be a benefit to his country; since the people were opposed to it, he thought it no harm to do evil that good might come. We know that Brutus said that he killed his best friend for the good of Rome; but I shall say no more about the hon. Leader of the Opposition, as he is not in his place. What had those members of the late Government who were opposed to Confederation in view? They must have had some object before them, because any person who raises his voice in favor of the people, is put down by these hon. members as a political damagogue, and as one who wishes to make political capital; or, as the hon. member for Charlottetown calls it, political dishonesty. If the members of any other party had acted in the same manner, that hon. member would say that they were political scoundrels.