

employment for her people and additional wealth to the State? My own opinion is that it would be for the interest of New Brunswick to sell her timber lands to all who may wish to purchase them; and I am ready, at any future time, to go into this matter at length, but it has not a direct bearing upon the present subject of debate sufficient to require me to dwell upon it now.

The lapse of the export duty was undoubtedly an omission, and one for which the Government must be held responsible. It was the duty of the late Attorney General, Mr. Allen, to examine the laws to see what renewals may be necessary, and although we know that he was a most careful and painstaking man, by some oversight this escaped him. For this we can scarcely blame the Hon. Mr. Smith or the Hon. Mr. Gillmor very severely, nor yet any member of the present Government, and I do not feel that it affords sufficient grounds to justify a vote of 'Want of Confidence. I was a little surprised at one statement made by the hon. member from York (Mr. Fisher), that if the British troops were sent to guard the frontier, they would all desert.

It appears to me that it ill becomes that ultra loyal member to make so sweeping a charge against the soldiers of his country.

I am aware that this expression does not amount to much, but if it had been made by a supporter of the Government how it would have been heralded through the newspapers as an evidence of our disloyalty and sympathy with treason and Fenianism.

Again, the charge is made that the Government introduced politics into the Bench. Not until the Bench had introduced politics into the Court Room, the public resort and the polling booth. Could Judge Wilnot expect preferment from the hands of a Government whom he continually denounced? From the leaders of a party whose principles he professed to despise and abhor? I do not pretend to set in judgment upon his course of action—I do not pretend to decide upon his legal or moral right to set as an advocate of this scheme—as an opponent of this Government. But, I presume, that when he took his course he was willing to take also its responsibility. That he expected no preferment from this Government, and when he received none, I presume he made no complaint. And it appears to me that it is most undignified in the political friends of that gentleman to now come whining and complaining over the natural consequences of his own course of action.

The hon. member from York (Mr. Fisher) said that he was not ashamed of the way in which he got here. I presume that he thinks he obtained his seat for the County of York by straightforward and honorable means. If, on the platform and through the press a most unscrupulous misrepresentation of your opponents—if taking advantage of the Fenian cry to excite religious dissension and strife—if appeals to every sentiment of religious bigotry and prejudice—if the free use of money to corrupt the electors of the County—if all these are honorable means, then his claim is a just one.

It is said that confederation has nothing to do with the subject of this debate; that there is no confederation in this amendment. Yes, Mr. Speaker, but there is much confederation under it.

This motion—this attack upon the

Government is but a part and a continuation of the plan of action for upsetting this Government and carrying the Quebec Scheme, which has been in operation since the close of last session. And none know this better than the hon. members, who, elected as anti-Confederates, are now playing into the hands of the Opposition. False to their principles, recreant to their professions, they now seek to stab the very party upon whose shoulders they were borne into power as members of this Legislature.

The hon. member from York said that this Government were as low in public estimation as it was possible for men to become. If this is not true, as I hold it is not, it is not owing to any want of effort on the part of the party to which that gentleman belongs. And what means have they used? Means the most unfair and dishonorable. But here I wish to make exception of many members of the Confederate party. Both on the floor of this House and throughout the country, there are many who are honorable men, and who would seek to carry their views by fair and honorable means alone. Such men we honor and respect though we differ from them. If they can carry confederation on the Quebec Scheme, or any other, in this Province by fair arguments, we shall have no right to complain. The minority must submit to the majority.

Reference has been made to the lectures of the Hon. Mr. Tilley throughout the country. I can only say that I heard him in my own place, and that his address there was in perfect good taste. He confined himself entirely to the subject of Confederation, and made no allusion whatever to the present Government or any of its members. I conceive Mr. Tilley has a perfect right to present his views to the country in this manner; and were these the means adopted by the advocates of Confederation—fair argument on the platform and through the press—it would be for us to meet them in like manner, and if beaten before the people, to submit like men to the inevitable. But such have not been the only means. This Government has been not the best but the worst abused Government that this Province has ever seen. Through the columns of a most unscrupulous press, the people have been told that they were traitors to their country, insulters of their Queen; that they were dishonorable, incapable and ignorant. The whole vocabulary of Billingsgate has been heaped upon their heads. Articles most unfair, most disgraceful, most indecent, have been scattered broadcast through the country. I have said that this attack upon the Government is but one part of the campaign. The course of the newspapers, the agencies employed to carry the York election, the lectures of Mr. Tilley, this want of confidence motion, are but continuous parts of the plan to upset this Government and carry the Quebec Scheme. If the present motion should succeed, what would be the result? Either the control of the Government will pass into the hands of the Opposition, and this scheme of Confederation rejected by the people, would be by some policy forced upon us, or a dissolution of this House would be brought to pass, and the scheme, unchanged, would again be urged upon the people. What the result of this would be we know not; what means would be used, what agencies employed, we can judge from the past. The attention of the people would be di-

verted from the main point by all kinds of side issues. Every act of this Government, of omission or of commission, would be magnified, distorted, misrepresented; every engine of falsification and abuse would be employed. Again the religious cry would be raised; every sentiment of bigotry and intolerance would be appealed to. Where these means would not suffice, bribery would seek to buy up the people like sheep. More people have been cheated out of their liberties than ever lost them by violence. And supposing Confederation carried by such means, what would be the result? A large minority left with the most bitter feelings of indignation and wrong. A great body of the people, who, when the excitement of passion had passed away, would feel that they have been misled and deceived. Many of the now warmest advocates of Confederation, who would think that they were cheated, either by the promised Railway not being built, or by its being built elsewhere than where they expected. What would there be among all these but the seeds of future agitation and political strife?

I appeal to the honorable men in the Confederate party both here and throughout the country, if they are willing to have this scheme pressed upon the people by such means as have been hitherto adopted? Will they say that the end justifies the means? I quote from one of the first writers of England:

"Let no man turn aside ever so slightly from the broad paths of honor on the plausible pretence that he is justified by the goodness of his end. All good ends can be worked out by good means. Those that cannot are bad; and may be counted so at once and left alone."

It is said that we should accept confederation because it is the wish of the British Government. Now, while we would pay every deference to the opinion of the British Government, we may justly claim for ourselves, as a free people, living under free institutions, the right to decide for ourselves upon a question affecting our own interests and the interests of our Province for all time to come. This country belongs to its own people—it is they who have made it what it is—it is they who have cleared its farms and built its villages and towns—and it is they and their children who are to be affected for weal or woe by any great political change. We are told that we should resist confederation, because three-fourths of British America are in favor of it. As well may France say to Belgium, we are lying side by side, and our interests requires your annexation, you may be opposed to it, but all France is in favor of it, and we have more than three-fourths of the united population. As well may the United States say to the British Colonies, we have thirty millions of people and you have three millions, our people unanimously desire your annexation, though you are all against it, nine-tenths of all North America are in favor of it, and you must come in. I have not considered the question of confederation, or the merits or demerits of the Quebec Scheme as directly involved in the present question. And I have only touched upon the means adopted to bring it about, inasmuch as the present attack upon the Government is one of those means.

The weakness of the points of attack and charges against the Government is