

worthy gentleman who was Warden of Fishmonger's Hall; and some will hardly credit me when I say that this is one of the wealthiest organisations in London. That gentleman was the Warden when the Prince of Wales dined there, and it was in that Hall that Messrs. Galt and Cartier received their first public dinner in England. The first observation of my friend the Warden was "Mr. Annand, I hope you are in favor of Confederation." I said that I was not. "What" said he, "not in favor of Confederation, I imagined that all your people were so." I then explained the reasons of my opposition, stating that the Provinces were not connected, that there were four or five hundred miles of wilderness without there being any means of communication. His reply was that he had seen some observation in a newspaper and that his opinion was that the Railway ought to precede the union, and when I mentioned the many prejudices that existed he said: "this is not a thing to be hurried, satisfy yourselves that Confederation is right and build your railroad." That was the opinion of this gentleman and I think it is the real opinion of the people of England. But we are told also that the Queen, (God bless Her Majesty) is in favor of the scheme—Under our constitution the Queen can do no wrong, she is not responsible for a word contained in the speech which Parliament is opened but her ministers are charged with that responsibility. The Queen we may imagine, has some thing else to think about than the affairs of British North America in her household and the exercises of domestic virtues. I attach no importance therefore to that argument and gentlemen oppose much the weak instead of argument when they bring Her Majesty's name into the debate. Her name should not be mentioned here. Then it is said that the British Government are in favor of Union—I have given some of the reasons as stated by the Colonial Secretary. There are fifty or sixty colonies to be managed and if five or six of those in British America could be knocked into one the labours and responsibilities of the Colonial office would be lightened. We have also been told that the British press are in favor of it, the press are probably animated by the feelings of the Colonial Secretary, and imagine that the change instead of being forced upon us in defiance of our wishes, was desired on our part, but tell intelligent Englishmen that the attempt to unite us will be contrary to the wishes of nine-tenths of our people and the knowledge of this fact would smash the strongest government in England that attempted to carry the measure. The press believe we desire the change, that the scheme was fair and just, and although they believe the scheme will lead us to assume a great portion of that burden with which the mother country has been charged in connection with our defence. We are told that the Governor, the Hero of Kars, is in favor of it. I do not desire to say anything disrespectful of that highly respectable and able General, I respect him as a warrior who stood true to the colors of his country and faithfully served his Sovereign, and would undertake to find in the

backwood of Musquodoboit men who understand the bearings of the questions, and the necessities of the Province as well as he.

(Upon interruptions being caused by disturbance in the galleries they were cleared at the instance of Mr S. Campbell, but were subsequently re-opened.)

Mr. Annand continued:—While, as I have said, I have the greatest possible respect for the abilities of the officer presiding over the government of the country, in his military capacity, on questions of local politics, and relating to the formation of a new constitution for these Colonies, these are not the men to whom I would look for instruction. The name of the General and of the Admiral have also been improperly introduced into the debate to give weight and authority to the scheme of Confederation—these are the proper judges in time of war, we are ready to follow them in the field and to fight under their flag upon the sea, but it is highly indecorous to bring the names of these functionaries here and least of all, should the clergy be so prominently referred to within these walls, we respect them, in the discharge of their duties in connection with their flocks, but a clergyman is out of place when mixed up with the excitement incident to politics and party strife. Then we have been told "you have all the religious press of the country against you." Now, do we go for our political opinions to such newspapers as these? These are authorities while they confine themselves to the tenets of the doctrines which they uphold, but no longer, and I am authorised here to state, on behalf of many Presbyterian clergymen and of many leading Wesleyans and Baptists, that they repudiate the opinions of these journals. But if it be true, as has been represented, that all this combination is on the side of the Government, I ask how is it that the great body of the people are arrayed against them. The reference to these religious bodies challenges this reply. The Provincial Secretary may quote these distinguished names and refer to these organs of popular opinion, but how is it that he dare not at this moment open a simple constituency in the country? There have been three elections since the scheme was propounded, and at every one of these the Government has been "routed horse, foot and artillery." What do I care for the opinions to which he has referred, when I know he dare not open a single constituency, and that the greatest misfortune that could befall him would be a vacancy in any of the seats? I therefore hurl back the allusions he has made. My mind can carry me back to the time when we were struggling for responsible government, we asked Her Majesty's Ministers for the concession, and we had them against us, we had against us the press of England, Her Majesty's Representative, and the General here, but we were right, we pressed for the rights and privileges of a free people, and achieved the system that we now enjoy.—Therefore away with the arguments drawn from the opinions of the Admiral, and General, and Governor,—their feeling is to obey the Imperial authorities, and their opinions may be expected to be moulded by their government. We have been referred to the despatch of the 24th June 1865, in which it is said:—

"Such an union seems to Her Majesty's Government to recommend itself to the Provinces on many grounds of moral and material ad-