

any way with Ministers going home with those resolutions—a copy of which is already before the Imperial Parliament—in their hands. The hon. gentleman must have misunderstood what I stated. I ask only that the people have an opportunity of doing that which I have done myself—that is, to vote for the measure. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman says he does not thank me for my support. Sir, that hon gentleman personally has never had my support. It is not to him I give my support, but to the Government as a whole, and to the cause which has called it into existence. The hon. gentleman knows well my political views have been so little in accordance with his, that nothing but the importance of this movement would have put it in his power to make me such a taunt, and that he has no occasion whatever to thank me for my support, which is given not because he is in the Ministry, but in spite of his being in that position. (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. HOLTON—I propose confining my observations to the motion now in your hands, Mr. SPEAKER. First, as to the point on which the hon. member for South Oxford allowed me to interrupt him. I charged the hon. gentleman with assuming that the question now before the House was specifically the one on which he agitated the country for several years, and upon which the hon. member for North Ontario voted in 1862. I happen to have placed in my hands the report of what took place when the subject of a Federal union was before the House, in 1858. Hon. Mr. GALT having put the resolution before the House, respecting the Federation of the British North American Provinces, Hon. Mr. BROWN moved his standing motion respecting representation according to population, as an amendment to it. There he put the two propositions in distinct juxtaposition, and yet to-night he endeavors to convince the House that this measure is substantially the measure which he was then contending for—endeavors to show insincerity on the part of the honorable member for North Ontario, because he voted against his own friends, in 1862, on representation by population, and now votes against this measure.

HON. MR. BROWN—I am sure my hon. friend does not wish to misrepresent; but I think he will find that that motion was proposed, and that there were two other amendments which were voted down. I

recollect that at the close of my speech I said I wanted representation by population—I am willing to take it alone; I am willing to take it with a Federal union; I am willing to take it any way so that we get it.

HON. MR. HOLTON—The honorable gentleman is confounding what occurred in 1856 with what occurred in 1858. In 1856 he did signify his willingness to accept the proposition of a Canadian Federation, if it was concurred in by any considerable number of the representatives from Lower Canada. But what I now allude to is what took place in 1858, when, instead of accepting Hon. Mr. GALT's proposition to Federate all the provinces, he put a motion in amendment to it, showing that in 1858, as in 1859, he was not willing to consider that question as a means of settling the Canadian difficulty. But I think the honorable gentleman, though he was more or less successful in answering the honorable member for Peel, utterly failed to meet the very cogent reasoning of my honorable friend from North Ontario. I hold as strongly as any member of this House to the doctrine of representation as contradistinguished from the doctrine of delegation. We are here commissioned by our constituents to do all that may be done under the Constitution under which we are sent here to legislate. But I hold that the change of the Constitution is something beyond our functions; that the representative elected to administer the existing Constitution has no right to vote for the subversion of that Constitution. (Hear, hear.) That is the doctrine which I hold, and I think honorable gentlemen will find it exceedingly difficult to controvert it. Then it has been said that there can be no possible occasion of appealing to the people, for they have already been appealed to and expressed their approval of the scheme. I do not know how many constituencies have been appealed to since June last.

AN HON. MEMBER—Fifty or sixty.

HON. MR. HOLTON—Well, fifty or sixty. But the Honorable President of the Council has referred to the Hon. Mr. BULL as being elected to support this measure, and a little further on he spoke of his opponent, Dr. SMITH, and said that he too was in favor of the scheme generally, but that there might be some of the details of which, when it came out, he could not approve, thus letting out that the details of the scheme were not