

crush the Maritime Provinces. I deny that any such power will be exercised. But even should this be the case, what possible motive could there be for such a course? On the contrary, with a common revenue and common interest, it would clearly be for the benefit of the people of Upper Canada that the lower provinces should prosper equally with themselves—that their population should increase—their resources be developed, and their manufactures and trade be extended. And the same feeling would be felt towards Canada by the lower provinces. The prosperity and advancement of one would be felt to be to the advantage of all, and the local jealousies which now actuate us would speedily pass away. It is true, our present means of communication with Canada are circuitous and liable to interruption; but with the construction of the Intercolonial Railway which will immediately follow union, this defect will be remedied, and with the rapid and easy communication, and the increased trade that will doubtless spring into existence, we will soon get to know each other—confidence will take the place of distrust, and our people will feel that a larger field is thrown open to their enterprise. It is said the corrupt statesmen of Canada, in their anxiety for union, are animated with selfish motives, and want to get control of our country and revenues to pay their burdensome public debts. This is a device of the enemy got up to frighten our people. Any person who has travelled over that vast country and become acquainted with its great resources and growing trade, cannot fail to be convinced that this is entirely groundless.—The public debt of Canada, in proportion to her population, is little in excess of our own, while her resources and ability to meet it are equally good. But I am satisfied that altho' Canadians are certainly anxious for Union with us, it is not on this selfish ground. They know that, while their country is rapidly increasing in population and wealth, without more intimate connection with the Maritime Provinces and an outlet to the sea at all seasons, they will be continually at the mercy of the people of the United States; who having cautiously put an end to the Reciprocity Treaty, threaten also to terminate the transport of Canadian bonded Goods over their territory and thus worry the people into a desire for Annexation. Should this be the case and the United States be thus increased by the addition of three millions of people, and their great country severed from British rule; could the maritime provinces even with the aid of Britain, for any length of time maintain their connection with the empire? No, Mr. Speaker, let Canada fall under Yankee rule, and we may make up our minds soon to follow. The old flag under which we have hitherto rested in peace and revelled in liberty will depart from our shores, and the Stars and Stripes flaunt in triumph over our Citadel and Forts. But it is agreed by our opponents that this resolution should not be adopted without an appeal to the people being first made—and that the course we are pursuing is unconstitutional. In my opinion the objection is unsound and if the request was assented to it would lead to no practical result. Of the constitutional right of the Representatives of the people in Parliament, to deal with all matters affecting their constituents, there can be no doubt, the princi-

ple is admitted by all authorities on constitutional law, and certainly under no circumstances could representatives of the people be returned and this House so untrammelled by pledges, and free to exercise an independent judgment on the question as the gentlemen who now occupy these branches. But we are told that nine tenths of the people are against Union, and that they have proved this to be true from the petitions laid on the table of the House. Now what proofs do they give us that this is true, or that any large number of the people are opposed even to the Quebec Scheme. I have before me a list of every petition presented from every part of this Province during this session up to this time. The only parties that have done anything—which have sent in any respectable number of names—are those to which the hon member for Richmond was instrumental in sending petitions; namely Inverness, Richmond, and Antigonishe. From Inverness we have 1119 petitioners out of 20,000 people; Hants sends 607; Lunenburg, 502; Digby, 584; Antigonishe, 1930; King's 445; Guysboro, 367; Victoria, 531; North Colchester, 126; Shelburne, 250; East Halifax, 205; Cumberland, 172; Richmond, 638. Making a total of 8000. Digby, Cape Breton, and Yarmouth do not appear to have sent in a single petition. Are not these facts proof that there is no such feeling of excitement against the scheme as has been represented? Is that evidence that the people of Nova Scotia are working to exhibit their indignation against any person who deals with this scheme? I believe that the people of this Province having considered this matter, have made up their minds that the event is inevitable, and that they are content to trust their rights and liberties to the gentlemen who are within these walls. They are satisfied that tied up with the people as we are all of us—that whatever we possess being bound up in the prosperity of the country—we are not likely to jeopardize the public interests. Under these circumstances I feel that we are safe in passing the resolution before us, and that on its adoption largely depends the safety of the people of this country. It is for us to consider if the Confederation of these Provinces will increase their strength and power, it is not our duty as well as interest, to yield to the advice of the British Government and pass this measure. I believe that such will be the results of Union, and I am therefore ready for one to support the resolution, believing that in doing so we are tending to perpetuate British rule, and British liberty through the length and breadth of British North America.

Mr. TOWNSEND—I wish simply to observe that the people have not petitioned because they feel that the petitions are not regarded.

SPEECH OF MR. TORIN.

Mr. TORIN said:—I feel that I cannot allow this question to be decided without at least offering a few observations on the resolution before the House. I have waited until the last hour to address the House on the subject, feeling that every opportunity should be given to my constituents, as they are in this immediate neighborhood, if they wished to raise their voices against the Confederation of these Provinces of British North America. I have waited, and now find that no united action has been taken by my constituents in the Western