tation of our nerves, and so has the elephant The elephant could take a man up on his trunk and pitch him on his back, and if I asserted that the mosquito could not do the same, following his process of reasoning in the present case, the learned gentleman would contradict me and refer to the elephant in proof of his opinion The reasoning in the one case is as good as that in the other, and when the honorable gentleman undertook to cast a doubt on the authority of Lord Mansfield I am again involuntarily but forcibly reminded of the mosquito and the elephant I think I have shown plainly that there is no comparison between the two Legislatures,—I have shown that it does not follow that because the Imperial Parliament can alter the constitution, the Parliament of Nova Scotia can do so too But he has asserted that the Legislature of Nova Scotia had repeatedly altered the Constitution. There I am at issue again with the hon member as to the facts This Legislature has in no single instance altered the constitution, but has always enacted its laws within the range of the constitutional authority conferred by the charter and the instructions of which I have spoken. "But," says the honorable member for Inverness, "has not this Legislature altered the polling districts throughout the country? Have they not increased the representation of one county and lessened that of another? and is this not an alteration of the constitution?" My answer is, no. These were no violations of the constitution. At the time when the Governor was ordered to call our assembly for the purpose of making laws there was no subdivision into counties, the country was sparsely populated, no survey had been made, and as a consequence the Province was as it were all one county. The instructions from the home government tell the Governor and Council, in calling together the Legislature, to make such distribution of the seats as they thought proper, so that they acted under the constitution throughout When the country was subdivided into townships and counties, it became necessary to alter the representation, and thus the whole proceedings to which he refers are strictly within the limits of constitutional authority

Then again the honorable member referred to the case of Cape Breton, and asked, "Did not the King in council by proclamation unite Cape Breton and Nova Scotia?" He did; and that circumstance goes to maintain the line of argument which I have adopted What was the condition of Cape Breton? She was a conquered colony, and from the time of the conquest of Louisburg was held by the sovereign of England as his estate in fee simple. The King had the whole legislative power in himself and he chose to govern the colony, as a crown colony, under certain regulations made by himself, through a Governor and Council The Parliament of England or that part of it consisting of Lords and Commons had nothing to do with the matter, for as I said the King was owner of Cape Breton. He did not give it the same charter as he gave to Grenada and the older colonies, but continued to rule it as sole legislator until he thought proper to confer the privileges that he had conferred on Nova Scotia. The hon gentleman will not pretend to say that Cape Breton ever had an assembly or any body resembling a legislature to make laws for the country When the King thought proper to annex the island to this Province he did not infringe the laws of Nova Scotia but imparted the blessings of the constitution of Nova Scotia to his subjects in Cape Breton, and when the people of the island foolishly objected to the transfer and went home with their case to the Judiciary of England, they were told and told properly "the King owns you, and as he thought proper to dispose of you he had a right to do so, because he held you in absolute sovereignty" That illustration therefore goes to support my argument

Then, again, the hon member asked us if the Legislature of Nova Scotia did not confer universal suffrage on the people, and in doing so change the constitution? I reply, No It was not a Legislature that gave universal suffrage; the original commission was to the "planters and freeholders," and they alone, in conjunction with the Governor and Council, could make laws The Governor represented the Sovereign, and the Sovereign had retained in his hands power to abrogate any statute of the Legislature He had retained all the powers which he did not confer on the people of Nova Scotia, and those powers were by no means inconsiderable Having, then, given the privilege of legislation to the planters and freeholders, he had a right afterwards to give that privilege to the rest of the people. Therefore, without violating the constitution, but in the exercise of her Royal authority, by assenting to an act of our Parliament, the Queen extended the privilege, formerly limited to the freeholders and planters, to the householders and other inhabitants of the country We were told that on another occasion the whole constitution was convulsed and overthrown by a sort of political earthquake—that the whole of the old Council of Twelve who exercised legislative and executive functions were dismissed by a single stroke of the pen of the Colonial minister, and thus a complete revolution was effected. In that statement of the case the hon member is greatly mistaken. Whose Council was that? It was the same Council that the King had ordered to be summoned when he gave the charter to Lord Cornwallis That charter ordered the Governor to select and choose a Council who should hold office at the will of His Majesty These twelve Councillors were the legal successors of the first Councillors, and at the time they were dismissed were holding their seats at the Council Board at the pleasure of the King or Queen, and were liable to be called upon at any moment, as they were on the revision of our institutions, to resign their commissions and give place to substitutes So that in no one of those cases was our constitution invaded.

But the argument of the hon member assumed a position which is by no means granted, and that is that in case of Confederation our Constitution was changed by our Legislature He assumed that to be a fact which is not consistent with the truth. The Legislature of Nova Scotia has never been a