

## ITS POLITICAL ASPECT.

But there is still another aspect, and a very important one, in which it must yet be viewed; and that is, the political relation in which, as Provinces, we are to stand to each other. The laws, the rights and privileges, under which we are to live, have been secured by an Imperial statute, and to that for a little while I would invite the reader's attention. The compact which binds us is a Federal, not a Legislative Union, like that of England and Scotland. We are to possess a General and a Local Legislature, whose duties are to be kept separate, and be clearly and sharply defined, so that the one may not come in collision with the other. We have a right to be satisfied, that we enter this Union on fair and equal terms, politically speaking; and I think that after an impartial investigation, it will be found that we of Nova Scotia have no material ground for complaint.

The Constitution of the new Confederacy is embodied in an Imperial Act, containing not fewer than 147 clauses. This Act differs in several respects from what is known as the Quebec Basis; and the changes, it may be remarked, are in every instance in favor of the Maritime Provinces. By the Quebec Basis, the support of penitentiaries fell upon the Local Legislature; by the Imperial Act, it has been transferred to the General Government. In the same manner it has been declared that local works, though situated wholly in the Province, if for the general advantage of the Confederacy, shall be provided for out of the general revenue. By the Imperial Act, a further grant of \$60,000 per annum is to come to Nova Scotia out of the general exchequer for local purposes. An attempt has been made to show that this grant is no boon whatever, as a similar *bonus* of \$80,000 has been allowed to Upper Canada; but it should not be forgotten that the population of the latter Province is five times that of our own, so that while the allowance to Nova Scotia is equal to 17 cents a head, that to Upper Canada is something less than five cents. The situation of the smaller Provinces has thus, in this case, also been liberally considered; so that, if we measure the terms by the population, in any way, wherever there is an advantage, it will be found to be invariably on the side of the Maritime Provinces.