

learned Knight at the head of the Government has defended the honourable member for Cumberland in his absence. (Hear, hear). I think, Sir, that it is a pity that our Nova Scotia friends have not yet been able to make up their minds to give the scheme of Union a fair trial—that they have not consented to allow it to work untrammelled—that they have not been contented to watch its natural revolution in its appointed orbit unchecked by any stumbling block of their placing. For their own sakes—for the sakes of their ancient and renowned loyalty of their Province—I regret the course they have chosen. The Repeal address which the popular branch of their Legislature has adopted, and a copy of which is asked for in the motion now before us is too schoolboy a performance to prove creditable to Nova Scotia on the journals of this House, if it is to be entered there. It is unworthy of that Province which has produced so illustrious an array of men of eminence—men whom we respect not only as lawyers of excellence, but also as acknowledged masters of English composition. It is a document at once ill-considered and fallacious—the production of empiric politicians—and, while we admit the discredit which its publication will attach to Nova Scotia, we must remember that any shortcoming on her part will reflect some portion of its discredit upon ourselves also, recollecting that whatever reputation is achieved by British Americans abroad, will be made applicable to every section of the whole Dominion. The propositions which the address enunciates are of two classes: firstly, statements of opinion or conclusions of argument, which I, Sir, for one, maintain to be unsound; and secondly, allegations of fact, which, in many instances, I know to be incorrect. And I say that it is not creditable to the author of that address to hear the tone in which he speaks of the administration of our institutions, and stigmatizes the Lieutenant-Governors who rule these Provinces as the mere tools of the Canadian Government, while he brands the Senators of his own Province as hirelings purchased to carry out the Union. It is not creditable that such a charge should have been brought by Nova Scotians against Nova Scotians. The address complains generally of injuries supposed to have been inflicted upon Nova Scotia by the old Province of Canada, and charged our statesmen with having juggled Nova Scotia out of her liberties. Such allegations, or any allegations of the existence of any quarrel

between Nova Scotia and Canada, are totally groundless. The address totally misstates the question. The quarrel, if any quarrel there be, rests between Nova Scotia and the British Empire, from whose power the Act of Union alone derives its authority. And I think, Sir, without any disrespect to that Province, that, in any controversy with the British Empire, even the most patriotic Nova Scotian will admit himself overmatched, in his attempt to limit the power of British influence. The Nova Scotian complaints divide themselves under two heads. A portion of them may be within the power of this House to remedy, and a portion of them are not so, but rest entirely with the Imperial Parliament. With the latter we have no concern, but as regards our own share, I am sure that this House has no disposition to act in any spirit of unfairness. (Hear, hear). It may be that there are some grounds of complaint with regard to some of the legislation of the early part of the session, and that, in such minor matters as the newspaper postage and certain tariff impositions, Nova Scotia may have some grounds for remonstrance, but so long as these points admit of modification or adjustment there will be no danger of its denial here. Whenever, Sir, the Nova Scotian case on these issues, is presented fairly and calmly, it will find an amount of support here which will leave none of its advocates ground for complaint that the voice of Nova Scotia demanding justice is not fairly listened to within these walls. Then as now, and in that case as in every case, the representatives of Nova Scotia will find all parties in this House united in the desire of doing justice to their Province. And, Sir, I am sure that not one of them will deny to-day that the same justice has been meted out to themselves as to all other portions of the Dominion, or that fear, favour or affection for any individual localities has been evidenced in the Government of the Confederation. But Nova Scotia must only ask us to consider these subjects from a broad national point of view, and to deal with herself, not with exceptional partiality, but in the same spirit of even-handed fairness which we extended equally to Quebec, Ontario, or New Brunswick. And here, Sir, I cannot withhold my acknowledgement of respectful appreciation of the moderate and large-minded, and truly national spirit, in which the honourable member for Lambton, the leader of the largest section of the Opposition, has approached and has dealt with all these great questions affecting the