

the Administration a victory in Ontario. One of those was the disposition on the part of the people that those who had taken part in maturing the Confederation scheme should have an opportunity of carrying it into practical operation. Another reason was to be found in the unscrupulous tactics of members of the Dominion Local Governments in their visits to various constituencies. Another, was the influence of the Grand Trunk, and in this connection he warned the members of the Maritime Provinces of the pernicious results which would be experienced if the Grand Trunk were allowed to get hold of the Intercolonial Railway as they had of the Buffalo and Lake Huron. A fourth reason was the free use of money. He could not concur in the invitation given by the member for South Oxford (Mr. Bodwell) to the Minister of Public Works to take his seat on the opposition side of the House. He thought that from the action of that gentleman during the last election he was not entitled to act on that side. When they found him travelling from one end of Canada to the other to defeat reformers, and going all the way from the seat of Government to Toronto to vote for a Conservative against a Liberal candidate he did not think he was entitled to be recognized as a Reformer. Mr. Oliver then adverted to the constitution of the Senate, regretting the adoption of the nominating principle. Its first results were very unfortunate in filling the chair of the Senate with a gentleman from this House who was distasteful to the members of that body, and in the fact that the people of Nova Scotia had not now in the Upper House a single representative of their views as expressed during the recent election. He trusted that part of the constitution would be amended. Having expressed his desire that the gentlemen from Nova Scotia would join in working out the constitution so as to make it productive of blessings to the people in all parts of the Dominion, Mr. Oliver resumed his seat amid cheers.

AFTER RECESS

The Speaker took the chair at eight o'clock.

Mr. McGee—Mr. Speaker: Although we all must feel the inconvenience of a prolonged discussion on the Address, I trust the House will grant me its kind indulgence in rising to offer such remarks as have suggested themselves to my mind during the course of this interesting and important discussion. (Hear.) In doing so, sir, I make my obeisance to the eminent position you occupy, and to its pres-

[Mr. Oliver (Oxford North)]

ent possessor; a most grateful duty to any one who has had the privilege of the previous acquaintance of Mr. Speaker, and a duty which will be grateful hereafter to every member of this House who himself had formerly that privilege. This Parliament, Sir, over which you have been chosen with unanimity to preside, meets here in what was called the other night "the backwoods of Canada," under singular, but in the main, what I cannot but think, fortunate auspices. Contrary to foolish rumours which had been let loose by their foolish authors, no member for the new Dominion is absent from his seat; we meet with full benches, and with an Executive strong enough in experience and in following, to give a salutary certainty to the financial and other measures that may propose to this House. (Hear.) We meet in the Capital of the Sovereign's choice in obedience to the Sovereign's summons; and I trust, and believe, we are all here to make the best of that Constitution, which our own work has received that Sovereign's cordial approbation. (Cheers). This Capital, it is true, is very near the backwoods; it is rather the ground-plan of a great city, than what one usually conceives a great capital city, ought to be; but if the foreshowings of the speech from the Throne, should come to pass, and our new nationality be extended, "from the Atlantic to the Pacific,"—and from the Atlantic to Lake Superior is a long stride in that direction, —(Hear, hear), Ottawa will be found central enough and convenient enough for the transaction of the public business of the entire Dominion. Mr. Speaker, so soon as we were assembled under this roof we had the speech from the Throne, now under consideration; but there was another occasion, on which another speech from the Throne, might have been addressed if not to us to those who sent us here; a speech which might have been made when Her Majesty gave her assent to this Act; which history will not fail to make as addressed by England to us in this passing year of 1867, and in terms such as I will venture to find expression for, as best I can. Her Majesty might have said on the occasion to which I refer,

Gentlemen of the four United Provinces, I transfer to your charge and keeping, all those parts of North America which remained faithful to the King, my grand-father, after the secession of our other American possessions. I transfer to your charge and keeping, a vast territory which the Kings my predecessors have clung to with a determined resolution for three centuries; for the possession of which we seven times went to war with powerful rivals; which cost us to retain and defend, many thousands of lives and many millions of treasure: This territory so eagerly explored, so