

members were returned to oppose it. During this year's session of the Parliament, also, a number of petitions against it, from various parts of the Province, were presented; and there would have been many more, but it was generally thought that the project had been abandoned. Various formidable and misleading and persuasive influences, however, there are strong reasons to believe, were being silently employed for promoting it; and at a late period of the session, the resolution from which the present Nova Scotia delegation has arisen, was suddenly introduced; and with *unfair and arbitrary haste* on the part of the Government, was forced to adoption by a majority of the same members who had in the previous session declared the project to be *impracticable*. So universal, still, is the public sentiment throughout the Province against any union with Canada, that if a general election were to take place, to say the least, very few indeed of those who voted for it would even venture to offer for re-election. It is notorious, and none will deny it, that they did not express the sentiments either of their electors or the general population. This prevalence of public feeling and opinion against the project must be as well known to the provincial government and the whole of its delegates, as in any other quarter.

In a letter published a short time ago in one of the London journals, under the signature—"One of the Delegates," the writer, in remarking on the number of the signatures to the petitions which have been sent from Nova Scotia to the Imperial Government and Parliament against the Union, has said that according to the number of the whole population, which he has stated at 380,000, the signatures should amount to 92,000, instead of the lesser number mentioned by Mr. Howe, one of the people's delegates, in his able pamphlet recently published. That "delegate" must be very ill-informed, indeed, as to the rule or scale observed in estimating the several portions or members of a whole population. Political writers of authority, in treating of that point, give the estimate of *six* to a family—namely, the male and female parents and *four* children. Adopting this estimate as fairly applying to Nova Scotia, and allowing its population, which at the last census in 1861, was 330,000, to be now 360,000, the proportion of male heads of families would be 60,000. The petitions contain only adult male signatures, and they now amount to about 40,000, and may