

feited her constitution by rebellion? Has the blood of Englishmen ever discolored her soil? Can Canada give the same answer to those questions that we can give? Did not Canada rebel against the British authority? Did not the Canadians slay British soldiers on their soil? Did they not stone, murder and mutilate a British officer while in discharge of his duty, and does not the innocent blood of that officer, like the blood of Abel, cry from the ground? Does it not loudly warn us to have nothing to do with such men? How long shall we be subject to that French population in Canada which has stereotyped itself as a separate nationality in the Act of Union? That is one of the greatest follies of the scheme. They have created an *imperium in imperio*—while power is given to the Canadian Parliament to trample on the rights of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the rights of the French Canadians are not to be touched. There is to be a French nation in our midst, controlling the loyal people of Nova Scotia. Is there a man in this House who would submit to such an indignity? I think there are hardly ten men in the Province who would willingly yield to such a degradation as that.

In this debate we have been asked a very serious and important question which I shall endeavor to answer. We were triumphantly asked, "suppose when you go to England with your address you fail of success, what then?" For my own part I see no difficulty in the question. In the first place we will call on the Queen of England, who is the first constitutional sovereign on the face of the earth, we will submit to her a statement of our case in which we will shew her that we have a right to have our constitution restored; and we will ask her to be pleased to recognize the simple unquestionable right of the people of Nova Scotia to enjoy their independent constitution as it was before the Act was passed. I know that a number of gabblers say "the British Government will not do this, that and the other." I am a reasoning man, and I know that the Queen and her ministers are reasoning people, and I believe that when we have submitted to the Queen the case which I have presented to the public to-day, she will not hesitate to say to the people of Nova Scotia, "you have been most grossly insulted and ill-treated—my ministry have been completely deceived—your constitution must be immediately restored." I have no more doubt that such will be Her Majesty's language than that I am addressing the House. But suppose that insanity would overcome Her Majesty, which God forbid, and that she should say to our delegates, "go back to Nova Scotia and tell your people that they have lost their liberties it is true, that they have been made the most abject slaves on the face of the earth, but it is true and cannot be helped." Then, sir, we go immediately to the Houses of Lords and Commons, we will instruct our delegates to apply there and to employ the first counsel in Europe to appear at the bar of those houses there to advocate the unconstitutionality of the statute as was done in the case I referred to in the King's Bench. We fairly expect a favorable reply to such

an appeal, for I do not think that the Lords of England—the high-minded noblemen who dignify the position of spiritual and temporal peers of the realm, will turn a deaf ear to the petition of the loyal people of Nova Scotia. Do you suppose that they have such things as McCullys and Tappers in that House? Will that House, which is the embodiment of honor, say "pooh, pooh, go back, you have got liberty enough, the French Canadians will take care of you?" No, sir; but rising with indignation the members of Parliament will say with one accord, "how dare you, Mr. Watkin, mislead the Parliament of England by saying that the people were consulted at the poll? Give your authority for the assertion."

But suppose that the Lords and Commons also became so far infatuated and intoxicated as under any circumstances to refuse to consider our rights, what next? I will tell the people what next: we will then try the Judiciary of England. I will get some gentleman to give me a note of hand for £300 sterling without a stamp,—if he refuses to pay the note because it lacks the stamp, I will sue him and take a special verdict setting forth the condition and constitution of Nova Scotia, the Governor's Commission or Charter, the Royal Instructions, the Imperial Statute,—setting forth also that the people of Nova Scotia were never consulted at the polls on the question, and that there is no statute in our Statute book referring to the union; and then if the judges of Nova Scotia place themselves in such a position that the gates of the Temple of Justice are closed against the plaintiff in that action by deciding that the note is not recoverable, I will appeal to the Privy Council, employing there the ablest counsel in Europe to advocate our rights. Poor as we are we will find the means to have our case thoroughly sifted before that high tribunal, and if that body should decide against us then we will go to the House of Lords as the highest appellate court in the Empire, and take the decision there of the ablest lawyers in the world. And then, sir, if our noble cause be rejected, what next? Will we rebel against the Queen of England? No, but when the Queen rebels against us and abdicates her authority over Nova Scotia by refusing to invest us with our rights, she will discharge us from our allegiance. But the act will be her own and we will be a free people. I do not wish to see such a state of things, and I hope that it may not occur, but if it should the Queen of England will have abdicated her Royal functions as far as this country is concerned.

Protection and allegiance are reciprocal duties,—if we owe allegiance to the Queen it is because she owes protection to us, and if she suffers our rights to be wrested from us, then, like James II, she will have abdicated the throne as far as we are concerned. The British Parliament pronounced that James, having violated the constitutional laws of the realm, had abdicated the throne, and if the Queen should place herself in that position what could we do? We must then become a republic or whatever other species of nationality we may desire to form ourselves into, and call upon the United States to guarantee