

Sir John A. Macdonald, happening to be on a visit to the Lower Provinces, and hearing of the proposed meeting, requested permission to be present. Invitations were accordingly sent to them. They accepted, and so carried the delegation away with them, that they succeeded in getting the smaller scheme abandoned. It was also proposed to meet later in Quebec, when a grander union of the five provinces would be proposed, and discussed. The greater assembly met in the ancient capital on the 16th of October, and sat with closed doors, until the 28th of the month, when the famous Quebec Scheme, as it was termed in New-Brunswick, was completed. The plan proposed was for the different governments to submit the question to the House of Assembly, in each province, without allowing a line or a dot of its provisions to be changed. The utmost secrecy was enjoined, and until the subject should regularly come before the House, it was agreed that no publication of the scheme should be made. Public curiosity was stimulated, but the people had not long to wait for the *expose*. A Prince-Edward-Island newspaper, by some surreptitious means, got hold of a copy of the precious document, and immediately published it *in extenso*. All was excitement then in New-Brunswick, Nova-Scotia, and Prince-Edward-Island. The people were filled with consternation and alarm. The country was overrun with pamphlets and broadsides, printing presses were kept going night and day, and publicists on both sides exhausted themselves in finding arguments for and against the topic which was in everybody's mind. The rival factions, forgetting for the hour that they were Liberals and Tories, Subtails and Smashers, allied themselves under fresh banners, and were known henceforth as Confederates and Anti-Confederates. The old Liberals, for the most part, favoured the union, while the Conservatives joined the ranks of the "Antis." A new society was formed, under the name of the British American Association. It was handsomely endowed by partisans friendly to the union cause, and the ablest political writers in the country were employed to find arguments in favour of the scheme. The society's publications were extensively circulated all over the land. On the other side, there was *The Patriot*,—a campaign sheet, —which was conducted with very great ability, besides the regular press of the day.

The fight was a very bitter one. In March, the general elections