

any statesman or Constitutional writer, of any party. In the face of all this then, are we to accept the *ipse dixit* of a dissatisfied, dissatisfied Nova Scotian who gravely propounds that Canada, Nova Scotia, or any other Colonial Legislature does not possess the power to amend, or modify or reconstruct its own Constitution. In France, in the United States, and elsewhere, matters may be managed differently; but where British Institutions obtain, the people can only speak by and through the representatives they themselves have chosen. They may instruct their representatives by petitions addressed to them, and by other means; but they cannot disobey the laws, nor counteract the resolves of those whom they themselves have selected as depositaries of their powers, and trustees to represent them during the limited term of their offices. Beyond all controversy the legality of the proceedings adopted for bringing about a union of the Provinces is undeniable, and if so, the only other question open for consideration is, will it conduce to the benefit of the Provinces, and of the Empire, that Confederation shall be accomplished?

So far as the Provinces themselves are concerned, they have responded in the affirmative. The people to be immediately affected by the measure have well and maturely considered the subject; their representatives—a large majority of them, who can only be supposed to reflect their wishes and sentiments—declare that their best interests are identified in the policy of Union. The second branch of the respective Legislatures, who for the most part are nominees indirectly of the people, that is to say, hold their appointments for life under nomination of the Crown recommended by its advisers,—they with a unanimity in all the Provinces, perhaps greater even than the peoples' houses, they too have decided in favor of Confederation.

As a rule, these as a class are men chosen for, and possessing large stake in the respective Provinces. They hold the same relation to the other branches, at least in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and partially so in Canada, that life Peers would in this country; and when out of eighteen Legislative Councillors in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick respectively, alike independent of the people and the Crown, thirteen have actually voted for Confederation, and but five against, surely it must be