

that the people's representatives should be sent to the country, in order that the whole body of electors throughout the Province should hear both sides of the case. This demand seems to us reasonable enough. But what said Dr. TUPPER in Temperance Hall on Saturday evening? He said that the Parliament had the power of altering the constitution, and quoted precedent in the case of Lord DURHAM. Dr. TUPPER's argument seemed to us somewhat ill timed, considering the strong opposition to Federation which exists throughout the country districts. Parliament has, of course, a perfect right to recommend its own dissolution; but the people have a similar right, and if country members are opposed to Federation, they should agitate their constituencies upon the question of dissolution. Upon this subject, Mr. MAY writes as follows:—"As Parliament may tender its advice to the Crown, regarding its own dissolution, so the people, in their turn, have claimed the right of praying the Crown to exercise its prerogative, in order to give them the means of condemning the conduct of Parliament." Now, we commenced this article by saying that our present condition was extraordinary beyond precedent; we must, therefore, be prepared for extraordinary measures on the part of the people, "in order to give them the means of condemning the conduct of Parliament." It is true, Parliament is not sitting; but the coalition of the leading men of either party upon a question threatening the overthrow of the constitution upon whose terms both parties were elected, may fairly be called "the conduct of Parliament," rather than the conduct of the ministry. Let country members see to this, and agitate for petitions to the Lt. Governor for a dissolution.

We confess to seeing a closer resemblance between the attitude of Dr. TUPPER and that of Lord DURHAM, than between the present state of Nova Scotia and the former state of Canada. We all know the circumstances which led to Lord DURHAM's appointment. There had been a difference of opinion between two parties, Protestant and Catholic, and an excited mob had fired a few shots while attempting to rescue some prisoners. The Canadians resolved to suspend the constitution under which alone they had any existence until their reasonable demands were conceded; in fact, Canada was in a state of incipient rebellion, and it was deemed expedient to create in the person of Lord DURHAM a *Dictator*—the first since Julius Caesar! We leave our readers to find out the analogy which satisfied Dr. TUPPER.

We think that a little calm reflection must convince men of all parties, that any attempt to carry this great question without an appeal to the people may be productive of the worst possible results. It is no light thing to demolish a constitution under which we have risen steadily in importance and self respect; it is dangerous to do so in the teeth of so large and respectable an opposition. Never was there a time when the Province needed wiser counsel than at present; never a time when the loftiest intellects of Nova Scotia were more imperatively called upon to declare for or against so gigantic a scheme. In that country whose constitution we have endeavoured to adapt to our peculiar circumstances, no statesman of marked ability is ever lost sight of at an hour of perplexity. Veterans that have passed a life time in their country's service may, in the evening of life find repose upon the benches of the House of Lords; but they serve their country still, and upon really great questions England listens reverentially to their words, weighted as they are with the wisdom of long, and it may be rough experience. Such men may slumber awhile, but they wake at the first

note of danger to the land they love. What Englishman does not recall with a thrill of pride the memorable debate, a few years back, upon the China war, when the giant intellects of BROUGHAM, LANSDOWNS, and LYNCHBURST, found expression on one memorable night and carried weight throughout the whole civilized world? But it is not so here. He, of whom Nova Scotia is most proud, holds a position which precludes him from giving to his country the full benefit of his long experience, and vigorous intellect. In the political career of JOSEPH HOWE, we have the history of Nova Scotia for more than a quarter of a century. Are we indeed to lose altogether the benefit of such an one's counsel in a crisis so important as the present? The Province is divided into three parties upon the Federation Scheme. Some are for it, some against it,—many are of doubtful mind. A few lines from the pen of Mr. HOWE would, we think, be hailed with joy throughout the Province. A crisis is at hand, greater, far greater than any through which we have hitherto passed, and one of Nova Scotia's ablest and most experienced sons is silent. We question whether Mr. HOWE is not, at the present moment, the most self-denying man in the Province.

THE LATE PUBLIC MEETINGS.

The meetings held last week in the Temperance Hall were on the whole eminently successful; as successful indeed as any meetings could be, which had no direct object in view, but the fair discussion of a great subject. It is not for us to decide who had the best of the arguments—it is not for us to assert that the arguments in favor of the present scheme were entirely fallacious, or that the arguments employed against it were suggested by personal animosities to the delegates, or the personal interest of the speakers against a consummation of the proposed scheme. Our space will not allow a full analysis of the various speeches delivered on Friday and Saturday. Many of them were excellent; one of them, considered merely as a piece of oratorical display was magnificent; two or three of them were silly in the extreme. Dr. TUPPER's final address, all must admit, should make Nova Scotia proud of the oratorical power of her Provincial Secretary. Mr. ARCHIBALD's speech was clear, lucid, and to the point. Messrs. ANNAND and McDONALD reasoned calmly and logically, and the figures of Messrs. JONES and STUART should, by the careful and honest study of the question which they evinced, have protected these gentlemen from the sneers, which the novelty of their position as public speakers provoked from many of their audience. Ald. TOBIN was amusing, which cannot be said of Mr. JONAS TOBIN's speech, though the latter gentleman accused the former of boring his audience by jesting on a grave subject. Whether Alderman TOBIN bored his audience or not, it was for the occupants of the Hall to decide. Good pleasantry is more congenial to the public taste, than dry and platitudinal declamation as Mr. JONAS TOBIN found to his cost, when with a graceful bow to the electors of Halifax he was forced into his seat forty minutes later. Messrs. WIER and LYNCH described Canada—the advantages of railways—and the glories of commerce with great success—but as far as arguments went, their speeches might have been delivered with equal effect in favor of a Federal Union, between Nova Scotia and Asiatic Tartary. As we said before, our space will not allow us to consider in detail, the arguments used for, or against the Union Scheme on these occasions. There are two points however, which appear to us deserving of especial notice. There are two arguments which have been used—one of them by both

sides—they have provoked the audience.

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