

would seem but good taste not to do so. However, this question of dining or not dining, was left to the discretion of the officers—who will, of course, act as circumstances shall dictate. A large committee was appointed, as a precautionary measure, to make the necessary arrangements for the dinner.—*Sun.*

REPRESENTATION OF CAPE BRETON.

The last Cape Breton Spectator asks:—Is it justice, that whilst no County in Nova Scotia sends less than three Representatives to the Provincial Assembly, no County in Cape Breton sends more than two? Is it justice that whilst Shelburne with a population of 6,000 is represented by three members, Cape Breton, Cy. with a population of 25,000, is represented by only two? We put it to the good people of Nova Scotia, whether such a discreditable state of affairs should be allowed to continue; and reiterate the wish which we have already repeatedly expressed, that the present Session may not be allowed to pass without justice being done to Cape Breton in the matter of Representation."

This a very proper question to be put by the Spectator, and one which can be very easily answered. It is *not* justice to Cape Breton, view it as we may. Such a state of things is not only discreditable, but absolutely disgraceful. The important Island of Cape Breton contains more than SEVENTY THOUSAND INHABITANTS, and yet, it returns but *six members* to Parliament. There are Fifty two members in the House. Now, if we take the population of Nova Scotia proper at 250,000 which we think a high figure,—it will appear that whilst Cape Breton has only six members for a population of more than 70,000, Nova Scotia has FORTY SIX, for a population not four times greater. In other words, this fine and valuable Island, so shockingly treated, has when compared with Nova Scotia, more than one fourth of her population, but only about one eighth of her members. One Nova Scotian is thus made worth eight Cape Bretonians!!!

We must pursue our comparisons in order to shew up to the country this monster grievance in all its revolting features. There are three members for Shelburne County and town, and for Barrington with a population of 6000. And, O mockery of representation! there are but three members in Cape Breton for 35,000 inhabitants!

Thus every 2000 people in Shelburne have a Representative, whilst it takes 11,666 in poor Cape Breton to merit one!

Let us next look at the small populations of Colchester, Cumberland, Truro, Onslow, Londonderry, Amherst which return seven members to Parliament that is *one more than all Cape Breton*. We do not believe there are more than 10,000 inhabitants in all those places put together, and yet an Island which contains *seven times* that number, has *one Representative less*.

Is this fair play, or common justice? Are those

hardy, industrious and excellent people fairly treated? Should every little township in Nova Scotia have a member whilst a bare half dozen are contemptuously flung to Cape Breton? Why this disgraceful anomaly? Whence comes this shocking disproportion? What have the people 'one so forfeit their constitutional rights? Why, Why should Cape Breton be treated like an Island of Tailors, so that it takes nearly *nine of them* to be equal to *one* Nova Scotian?*

We could tell the reason in two words. But we wait for the present. We hope the question will be brought immediately before the House, and that every member from that ill treated Island will advocate the claims of justice with earnestness and zeal. Nay we would make it one of the tests of their fitness at a future election. The people of C. B. have a right to insist on an *immediate discussion* of their grievances. A Resolution moved by one of her own members, to the effect that in the existing state of the Representation, the seventy thousand inhabitants of Cape Breton were treated with an unjust and unconstitutional partiality, and, that an anomaly so disgraceful should be terminated without delay, would at once test the real feelings of every member in the House. We do not like the shuffling mode of evading this plain question, by declaring that many populous districts in Nova Scotia itself are unjustly treated also, and that a general measure ought to be introduced, some fine day or another, next year. This deceptive adjournment to the Greek Calends will not satisfy us; neither should the people of Cape Breton suffer the question to be got rid of in this side winded manner. It is their "Question of Questions," to which all other subjects are of comparatively minor importance. Let them never cease to agitate until they get their lawful number of Representatives, and everything else will follow as a matter of course. Let them elect no member no matter what his other qualifications, who will not promise heart and soul to obtain for them by every means in his power, this act of justice.—We will add our conviction, that for every reason the present Hon. Solicitor General ought to place himself in the van of this Constitutional fight. He knows their wants and their claims. He knows the valuable resources of that fine Island, and the necessity of having its interests well represented in the House of Assembly. He knows that its Union with Nova Scotia is, although perhaps legal, an unnatural and forced annexation; that it does not enjoy one tenth of the privileges of the neighbouring Island of Prince Edward, that it is far remote from the metropolis of Nova Scotia, and

*We mean no offence to this useful and respectable class in our allusion to a vulgar and unjust proverb.