

use of here, out of respect for ourselves and for the French-Canadians in this House. It is a great mistake on the part of a beardless youth, with no more experience than the honorable member for Richelieu, particularly when he is addressing men of the experience and capacity of the Honorable Attorney General for Lower Canada. All parties agree in saying that the Hon. Attorney General East is capable, honest, and of the highest integrity; but all do not approve of his policy, and that is perfectly legitimate. But that is no reason for attacking his private character, and putting in his mouth opinions which he has never uttered. They say he is honest and upright, and yet we read in the newspapers that he is willing to sell his country, his religion and his nationality for a title or an appointment as Governor. This is very unfair. (Hear, hear.) The members of the Opposition demand an appeal to the people upon the question of Confederation. But if it were granted, you would see, Mr. SPEAKER, to what lengths they would go. These demands for an appeal to the people are only made with the view of serving the purposes of a *clique*, who would say to those who desired to discuss frankly the question before the country—"Hold your tongues and vote against the Government!" This is what they have already attempted to do by means of meetings which they have caused to be held in different counties; but I must say that in mine they did not succeed in their designs. They sent three agents there, under different pretexts, who tried by every possible means to induce the people to pronounce against the Ministerial scheme; but they did not succeed; and yet I am the humblest member of this honorable House. But as I happened just at that time to be attending to the duties of my profession at the court of the district of Beauharnois, I observed that these agents had been sent by the Montreal committee, and I was enabled to defeat their little plans and their little games. They tried to make little speeches, and hold little meetings, but as I was on the spot they gained nothing by it. But all this serves to indicate the means that have been employed by the partisans of the Opposition to excite the people against the measure of Confederation. I do not want to be too hard upon them, because they naturally were desirous of obtaining a triumph for their party, and they employed these means as they might have employed others, although they do not care a rush for the holy cause of nationality or religion.

(Hear, hear.) I remember very well what used to be said and what used to be done in the *Institut Canadien* of Montreal, and I observe with satisfaction that the present conduct of the honorable members of the other side of the House who belonged to that *Institut* is a direct protest against what they did in the *Institut*, in which we have had *Suisses* coming and preaching religious toleration. Then it used to be said—"We must advance with the times," and they used to read the *Pucelle*. (Hear, hear.) Now, the Government does not propose to establish the annual parliaments, that the hon. member for Hochelaga used to cry out for, but they are engaged in settling the difficulties of the country. They call upon every man of talent to aid them in this task, or to invent a better remedy for these difficulties, and to submit it to the country. But if those who oppose the Government measure are contented with mere opposition, without proposing any better measure in its stead, what will the people say to them if they present themselves to their constituents, to ask them to pronounce between them and the Government? They will say—"What have you done; what have you to offer to compare with what the Ministers have done and offered to us?" They will ask them for their measure, but they will keep it hidden away with that famous budget of the honorable member for Chateaugay, which has not yet been hatched after eighteen months' incubation. (Hear, hear.) We know perfectly well that the Government measure is not perfect, and that it has defects, as all plans made by men must have. For my part I admit it most willingly; but it must be remembered that it is a compromise, and this the gentlemen of the Opposition take good care not to allow for or to state. In public they say that the French-Canadians are going to be overwhelmed by the English element in the Confederation, and that they will lose their language. But do they not know that in Upper Canada the French language has been preserved as pure and unalloyed as in Lower Canada, wherever there is the smallest nucleus of French inhabitants? The members on the other side propose giving us lessons in the art of preserving our language and our nationality—they annexationists at heart and in their actions, who are always looking to Washington. I do not say that it is a crime to be an annexationist, but at least let them frankly admit what they are. Thus the honorable member for Chateaugay (Hon. Mr. HOLTON) is more of a Yankee than any one. He told us