

debated at the other. Of what use are reasoning and eloquence addressed to those who, in the first place, have to lay their instructions on the table?"

I refer to these points in view of the condition of things two years ago, and to shew that the legislature of that day was bound to pass such measures as its members believed right, without strict regard to the views of the constituencies. Listen to what Burke said upon that question while addressing his constituents at Bristol. He said:—

"I do not obey your instructions." No, I conformed to the instructions of truth and nature, and maintained your interest against your opinions with a constancy that became me. A representative worthy of you ought to be a person of stability. I am to look to your opinions indeed, but to such opinions as you and I must have five years hence. I was not to look to the flash of the day. I knew that you choose me, in my place, along with others to be a pillar of the state, and not a weather-cock on the top of the edifice exalted for my levity and adversability, and of no use but to indicate the shiftings of every fashionable gale."

In view of these doctrines, so well established, I ask whether it was becoming to style the men who voted for Confederation, two years ago, "traitors," because they went, it may be, against the wishes of their constituents? I will come now to another branch of the argument. The hon. member for Queens referred to the large petitions got up, at the instance of Dr. Tupper, for the dissolution of Parliament, and he quoted that gentleman's remarks to shew that the Governor was bound to dissolve the House when a majority of the people shewed themselves hostile to its measures. But the hon. member forgot the answer that was given to that request, and I give that answer more especially for the benefit of the liberal members of the House, because it came from the man whom they appear willing to bow down and worship. Mr. Howe, in leading the government of that day, defied Dr. Tupper, and said that the legislature was not to be influenced by every breath of popular opinion, and that for its full term the legislature would continue to govern the country in the way it thought proper—not as the delegates, but as the representatives of the people. From a Minute of Council, dated 29th July, 1861, I take this extract:—

"Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Campbell are the best judges of the soundness of their own views and the propriety of their conduct. They are not delegates but members of Parliament, and from the moment of their election they were bound to represent, not only Digby or Argyle, but the whole Province, whose great interests were committed to their care. This doctrine laid down by Mr. Burke at Bristol in 1774 has never been questioned in the Imperial Parliament. And Mr. Horsman, member for Strone, though recently called on by his constituents to resign, has asserted his rights, and illustrating this sound British doctrine, positively refused. If members were to resign whenever for a moment they displeased their constituents, the calls would be frequent—personal independence would be rare, and questions would be discussed by requisitions rather than by fair deliberation and manly debates. If Parliament were to be dissolved whenever a gentleman changed sides, or a discontented constituency petitioned, free institutions would become an endless distraction, and no man would ever dare to deliberate or run the risk of being convinced."

These are the doctrines of Joseph Howe, put upon the Minutes of Council, and here

again is a statement of his views on the 20th April of the same year:—

"With regard to the members of Digby and Argyle it is the undoubted principle of the British Constitution that a member once returned by a constituency has to consider *what he believes* to be the interests of the whole country *and not the wishes of a simple constituency*. He is elected a representative and not a delegate, and the constituency have given up to him for the limited period fixed by law for the duration of the Parliament the power which they possessed."

We have heard announced the doctrine that members are bound to be guided by the wishes of their constituents, and in no case to depart from the views of the people, but I leave this point with the comments which I have already made. In passing from the speech of the hon. member for Queens, I must thank him for the kindness with which he treated me and my colleague. I wish I could congratulate all the members for having evinced so generous and candid a spirit. When I addressed the House previously, I am free to confess that I was to some extent blameable for the warmth I exhibited, but I held out the olive branch, and said that I regretted some of the language which I had applied, and that I had used that language only because I had been provoked beyond endurance. I said I hoped that in future we would be able to conduct our debates with good temper and moderation, but have I been met in the same spirit? Sir, there never was a man who stood on those floors and had so much contumely and contempt heaped upon him as have been heaped upon me by two or three members, and before I am done, if Providence give me the power, I will teach them not to repeat their conduct—teach them that towards me they should have acted with something like decency and moderation. When some members have thrown upon me affronts of no ordinary kind—have even dug up the bones of a departed brother and flung them in my teeth, they must and will be taught a lesson they will not readily forget unless I am deprived of the powers of speech.

The next member who spoke was Mr. Chambers who gave us a long discourse on the tariff, and who endeavored to give us the benefit of his general knowledge of business. I do not think, however, that he met the argument that I had put fairly before the House, but I shall speak of him with respect, because his treatment of me merits such a return. He told us that his children had put into his valise a couple of books from which he read,—I have heard of a good many clever children—some exceedingly clever ones—who could instruct their parents, but if he has children capable of comprehending those books their procoiousness must have arisen from the principles which make the parent resemble Nebuchadnezzar, who "ate grass like an ox." He told me that he and I started in life together,—I did not feel much flattered at that, because I was under the delusion that he had started in life ten years before me; but he went on to say that I had obtained what I sought: a high position in this country. That reminded me of a remark made by the late Mr. William Murdoch, when he was about to depart from Nova Scotia,—some of his friends gave him