

The sound of approaching invasion from the Fenian hordes that have been concentrating upon the borders, has kept His Excellency's mind upon the stretch, and his pen busily at work, in order that those from whose approach the threatening sound arose, should meet with a reception becoming any attempted desecration of British soil. Deprived of the services of both his secretaries, the one having gone to St. John, and the other with the brave volunteers from Fredericton to the borders at St. Stephen, there to serve in defence of their country—both engaged in the emergency on military service; as a consequence, His Excellency has been unaided, except by occasional copyists, in the many claims upon him for the exercise of his pen. The copy of the correspondence sent to Mr. Smith, was the only one His Excellency had time to make from his rough draft, and when sent to Mr. Smith, it was accompanied with a request that as soon as it had been used in the House of Assembly it should be returned to His Excellency, in order that a copy might be made. The copy was sent for several times but could not be obtained until late at night. His Excellency felt the necessity that it should be printed in order that members of both branches of the Legislature should have an early opportunity of perusing it, and therefore did not wait for it, but from the rough draft, prepared another for the printer, and the consequence, almost unavoidable, was that there were some slight changes in the phraseology, but none, I believe, to alter the sense of the document. I have said that His Excellency, under his directions, was desirous of carrying Confederation; that he much preferred to carry it by his then Government than by any other, but thought it desirable to be sure of the assistance of some members of the opposition, and, having secured my promise of support, if convinced of the sincerity of his Ministers, and Mr. Smith having assented to co-operate with me, His Excellency felt assurance rendered doubly sure of Mr. Smith's ability to carry out his pledges, which he would not have been able to do, relying only on his own immediate party.

An interesting episode in this correspondence will be found in those paragraphs relating especially to Mr. Wilmot's resignation. It is important as well as interesting, because it is a narration of

facts which coincides with the general impression that prevailed at the time; with Mr. Wilmot's own statements, and with the correspondence that passed between His Excellency and that gentleman, and it is corroborative entirely of His Excellency's statements as to the avowal on the part of his Premier, with regard to union, of a changed policy; a change which for reasons of their own, the Cabinet did not wish Mr. Wilmot or the public to know, and which His Excellency in order to sustain, as he had always sought to do, his administration, kept secret.—Mr. Wilmot resigned because of the indisposition of his colleagues to entertain propositions for a closer union of the British North American Provinces. His Excellency kept Mr. Wilmot in suspense for a length of time, not being willing to accept of the resignation until Mr. Smith, who was then in Washington, had returned. Why this hesitancy? If His Excellency was, as he professed, and as he must have been, anxious to carry Confederation, and if he had no reason to hope that his Council would assist him in it, upon what grounds could the acceptance of Mr. Wilmot's resignation be defended, knowing as His Excellency did, that in the then changed aspect of public opinion, Mr. Wilmot could have formed a Government with an union policy, and have been triumphantly sustained by the country. Your honors must perceive, and it appears to me proof "strong as holy Writ," that His Excellency only waited for Mr. Smith's return in order to have assurance strengthened with regard to that gentleman's intentions, and so soon as Mr. Smith, having returned, gave His Excellency the required assurance, then Mr. Wilmot's resignation was accepted. This brings us, your honors will perceive, to a point at which one of two conclusions is unavoidable. Either Mr. Smith advised the acceptance of Mr. Wilmot's resignation, because he (Mr. Smith) and his colleagues had changed