

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, November 13, 1867

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

Messrs. Webb and Pope took the oath and their seats.

Three petitions were presented and two read.

Hon. Dr. Tupper resumed the debate on the address. He said some honourable gentlemen might take objection to bringing before the House after-dinner utterances on public questions, but these were the occasions taken advantage of in England by statesmen to make their sentiments known, and of that nature was the honourable member for Hants' drill shed speech. In that speech he had thanked God he was not only a Nova Scotian but a Canadian as well; and the speaker went on to read extracts from that speech amidst cries of "hear, hear". In relation to the project advocated by some in Canada of dissolution, pure and simple, the honourable gentleman had said that such men ought to be crucified. That speech had been published in his own organ, and he believed, revised with his own hand, on a day which of all others he ought to have been able to give a clear expression to his ideas. After having heard his (the speaker's) views in favour of Union, the honourable member had promised his assistance—it was true for a union of the Maritime Provinces, but it was with the full knowledge that it was his (the speaker's) and his friend's intention, if possible, to extend the Union to all British North America. He referred to the change which had taken place in Nova Scotia, because the sober second thought of New Brunswick had been in favour of Union with the great Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and that Province might become the frontier of a great power, while Nova Scotia would be left in a state of isolation and weakness. This Union of British North America would remain an evidence of the prophetic spirit of Lord Durham. He would read an extract from that nobleman's report showing that to carry Union he (Lord D.) only looked to the Legislatures of the Provinces. He said not a word about the

un-British idea of a constitutional change being referred to the people, rather than to their representatives. He (the speaker) contended that at one time under the unfavourable circumstance of New Brunswick having decided against Union, it was wise not to push the scheme immediately in the Legislature of Nova Scotia, but when the change took place in New Brunswick, the situation was changed. He had felt that if we rejected the advice of the Imperial Government, it would tend to a severance of British connection. It being incumbent upon the Mother country to defend us, she had a right to ask us to combine to make that defence effective. He showed that if Nova Scotia had not gone into Confederation, it could not have met the changes on the revenue without revising the tariff. He said a more loyal people than the Nova Scotians did not exist, but he did say Fenians and annexationists had everywhere, and in every instance, given their sympathies and assistance to the Anti-Unionists. The honourable member for Antigonish had thrown out the insinuation, that a large number of Nova Scotians were disloyal, and read an extract from his speech in which that honourable member had said that a few years ago, there were none disloyal, but he was not sure he could say as much now. He would show that the member for Digby had pledged himself in a speech on the hustings to give his assistance in securing peace and prosperity for every part of the whole Dominion. He appealed to his friends around him from Nova Scotia, having had their revenge—having driven from public life one of the best men in the Dominion, and left him (the speaker) alone a blasted trunk. He would appeal to them now to look upon this question in a broad, generous, patriotic and statesmanlike manner. Many of them, particularly the member for Cape Breton, had promised to give the Constitution a fair trial, now that it was the law of the land, and he hoped to hear a generous response to the call of patriotism from all. They were in a position to take a course that would redound to their lasting credit, and the best interests of their own Province and the Dominion. It was fortunate that the Provinces held their power from an imperial source, and if any injustice were attempted they could appeal to an