

THE CONFEDERATION QUESTION,

CONSIDERED

FROM A PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POINT OF VIEW.

IN the following pages, it is intended to narrate and review briefly the proceedings relative to the proposal to unite the British North American Provinces under one Government and Legislature—so far as these relate to Prince Edward Island—from the conclusion of the deliberations of the Quebec Conference in October, 1864, to the present time.

Prince Edward Island was represented at the Conference by seven delegates: The Honorable John Hamilton Gray, M. P. P., President of the Executive Council, the Honorable Edward Palmer, M. L. C., Attorney General, the writer, who held the office of Colonial Secretary, and the Honorable Thomas Heath Haviland, M. P. P. These gentlemen, with the exception of Mr. Haviland, were members of the Executive Council. The opposition party was represented by the Honorable George Coles, M. P. P., the Honorable Edward Whelan, M. P. P., and the Honorable Andrew A. McDonald, M. L. C.

The Honorable Edward Palmer and the Honorable George Coles, shortly after their return to the Island in November, 1864, declared themselves opponents of the Scheme of Confederation proposed by the Quebec Conference. It will be hereafter shewn that Mr. Palmer and Mr. Coles, while in Canada, publicly announced their