

finest men ever produced on the face of the earth—the finest statesmen ever known—every one of them as fine an orator and as profound a politician as the hon. member for Inverness—their arguments would not stop the taxation of Nova Scotia as long as they would be talking. That is the way in which we are represented, and this is the constitution which the hon. member for Inverness has been laboring to defend. The people of Nova Scotia, if they accepted such a constitution, would be as abject slaves as the people of Turkey, the serfs of Russia, the fellahs of Egypt—the most degraded people on the face of the earth. Does the hon. member suppose that the people of free Nova Scotia will submit with the certain knowledge that the Statute is void? Simply because its preamble is false. If that preamble were true, no man would be insane enough to dispute its validity. If the people of Nova Scotia desired Confederation with Canada on the conditions imposed by that Act, and the Queen of England were willing to confederate us, there would have been nothing improper or unconstitutional in the Act. It would not then have required the interference of the Lords and Commons, because the Sovereign, as I have shewn, was the original legislator of Nova Scotia. If the Queen then had expressed a wish to the people of Nova Scotia that they should join in a confederation with Canada, and the people of Canada had assented, and the people of Nova Scotia, on being consulted at the polls, had sent to this House a majority of representatives willing and anxious for the federal union, and a Provincial Statute had confirmed it, the British Statute would have been sound and constitutional.

But that has not been the case,—the Act passed against the will of the people of Nova Scotia. It was not simply passed without consulting them, but passed after insulting them, fraudulently, dishonestly, by falsehood, by misrepresentation, by intrigue, by deception, by every species of criminality, which politicians could commit against a country. It was known to the men who went to England on the delegation, that the people did not want Confederation, and that the majority of them were opposed to it. Corruptly undertaking to bind the people of Nova Scotia (in that Confederation they went to England and falsely informed the Queen, the Government and the Parliament of that country that the people desired Confederation. A fraud was practised on the people and legislature of England to obtain the passage of the Act, and we know that in law there is a very wholesome principle, that "fraud vitiates all things." Ever since the commencement of the world fraud has vitiated every human contract and transaction into which it entered. There never has been a man who, having been defrauded out of his rights, would not at the first opportunity reinvest himself with those rights, because according to the laws of nature and reason, according to natural justice fraud vitiates every transaction. A statute is not exempt from this all-pervading principle of equity. A statute, powerful as it is in England, is not, I say, exempt from that principle, and the

people of this continent and of the whole civilized world will instantly join in one loud chorus to pronounce that a statute obtained by fraud to be void. The advocates of Confederation will soon find the truth of the old saying "honesty is the best policy,"—it would have been wiser in them, if they expected to gain anything by Confederation, to have submitted the question to the people at once, instead of trusting to force it on us by fraud, deception and misrepresentation.—These men, however, performed an act of political assassination, and deliberately, in Canada and with Canadian sharpers, concocted a scheme to rob Nova Scotia of her independence. These statements are all true, and I am not ashamed of the truth. I know certain classes in Nova Scotia who are ashamed of the truth,—who have a strong aversion to it, who love the opposite of truth for its own sake and the sake of its expected fruits, but I am not afraid of the truth, and I say here, that these men wickedly, maliciously and dishonestly conspired to destroy the constitution of Nova Scotia, which the people rightfully prize above all things. If they had not been fools as well as something worse we would have been in an unpleasant condition to-day, but it has been wisely ordained that the rogue is always a fool. If it were not for the folly of the knave he would never be detected, and therefore it is that the maxim has arisen "honesty is the best policy." If heaven had not affected those men with judicial blindness, our liberties would have been lost, but we owe our salvation and the salvation of the constitution to the excessive weakness of the men who having banded themselves together for the purpose of aiding the conspirators in Canada in the destruction of Nova Scotia, were so silly, such inconceivable political nincompoops, as not to perceive that it required a statute of Nova Scotia to bind the people of Nova Scotia. The same men are unable to rake up a single constitutional argument in support of their position. To this utter ignorance of every principle of constitutional law Nova Scotia must ascribe her safety.

The gentlemen who did us this favor chose the Irish job as their model, they have not even the merit of originality, for their plot is a mere imitation of the other. They had not the wit to conceive a plot of their own, but borrowed from Pitt and Castlereagh. There was, however, only a certain portion which they were capable of borrowing, they could not borrow their wisdom, for as is generally the case with servile imitators of others, they only pick up the faults and defects, while they are unable to copy the perfections or merits of their models. The McCullys, the Archbalds, the Tupperes and the Henrys, and such most worthy characters, in imitating Pitt and Castlereagh, were able to imitate them only in their vices; they were as corrupt, and even more so, because Pitt and Castlereagh pocketed nothing, while these gentlemen all managed to pocket something,—therefore they were wiser in their generation. They imitated, I say, the faults which rendered that Irish job contemptible in the eyes of the world,—which made one of the finest people in the world