

ral principles; we have worked with you in the construction of this constitution, and we desire to work with you in putting its machinery into motion. But if you find that the conditions will be such as to prevent you from taking office, we will have to take office in the Government of Mr. Macdonald." Well, gentlemen, we saw what would be the result if we declined—that the majorities in three eastern Provinces could be represented in the government, and that those majorities would support it, while the majority in Upper Canada would be unrepresented: and we feared that it would be shown to England and to the world that this great remedy, which Mr. Brown and Mr. Macdonald, and men of all political parties had agreed to, had solved none of the evils complained of, that Upper Canada was still subjected to the same disabilities as formerly, and the disease existed with tenfold greater virulence than before. Why, what would we have seen? We would have seen the three eastern Provinces banding together and supporting a government to which the majority in Upper Canada was opposed. You may talk about the corruption of Coalitions, but if you have a corrupt government it is one that commands but a narrow majority in the legislature, and is fighting for its existence from day to day. These are the corrupt governments, not those possessing a strong support and confident in its strength, and these are the governments it is not desirable to see established in consequence of party distinctions when there are no questions to divide parties. That is our opinion, and that has been our decision, whatever others may do or whatever others may say. I see by the *Globe* of to-day that Mr. Howland and myself are quietly read out of the reform party.—We are no longer members of it—"the die is cast." Well sir, I have been denounced by that paper before, and I do not know that I have

suffered much in consequence of it. I have pursued the course I thought right, irrespective of those denunciations, and I think that on the whole I have come out pretty successfully. (Cheers.) I believe that we should not put our hands forth for the destruction of that constitution which we have formed after much anxiety and labor. (Cries of "oh.") Gentlemen say "oh," but I would like to hear reasons rather than marks of dissent. I should like gentlemen to look at the past position of the party, and see of what it was you complained. You complained that a government remained in power which did not possess the confidence of a majority of people of Upper Canada, and you complained that you contributed a larger portion of the revenue and had no control of the money which you placed in the hands of that government. Well, what is the position of affairs to-day? We have undertaken to build an Intercolonial railway. When some years ago the government to which I belonged proposed to do this the honorable gentleman behind me (Mr. Brown) who is taking notes and will probably reply to my speech, denounced it as a most atrocious thing to build a railway where nobody wanted to go, though soon afterwards we found him ready to build even six intercolonial railroads, to obtain this measure of Confederation. (Hear, hear and cheers.) Now, sir, if the course is taken which is proposed by one of these resolutions, and which is advocated by the *Globe* newspaper, I say that the reform party will have no influence in the government of this country. (Hear, hear.) I say that a government can be constructed and will be constructed in spite of that party, and that it will carry a majority in the legislature of the new Union. That government will have this railway to build, running through three Provinces, it will have the selection of a route and control over the expenditure of