

should be to see that the demands of justice were satisfied by the punishment of the men who laid ruthless hands upon the life of their country's constitution. This duty has been discharged, although not perhaps to the extent that the complete vindication of our country's honour required; and now the representatives of Nova Scotia here, and her representatives in the local Parliament as well, have to set themselves to the consideration of the next duty that devolves upon them. I have said, Mr. Speaker, that Nova Scotia's hostility to Confederation, was caused not merely from dislike of the way in which it was carried, but from a deep seated conviction that the thing itself is dangerous and wrong. The honourable member from Cumberland tells you a different story, and would have the House believe, in spite of the record of the elections, that there is a strong Union feeling in Nova Scotia. If he believes that a majority of the people of that Province are for Union, he must at least admit that they took a somewhat singular mode of expressing their opinions. He professes to believe this, however, and attributes the fact of the people voting against it, to any other cause rather than that of hostility to the measure. The influence of Halifax and Halifax merchants, he says, was so powerful, as to sway public opinion throughout most of the constituencies; and yet he boasted to the House five minutes afterwards that the Confederates polled a large majority of votes in the city of Halifax. The honourable gentleman should try to be consistent in his inventions. But the influence of the bankers, he tells us, was against him. If this were so, no stronger proof of their disinterestedness could be given. The laws of Nova Scotia prevented these gentlemen from taking more than six per cent for their money, while we read in the commercial columns of the Montreal papers that for the last month discounts have ranged in that city at from nine to fourteen per cent; and under these circumstances the fact that a number of the bankers did oppose the measure that was calculated to allow them to charge so much as they pleased for their money, was creditable in the highest degree to their patriotism. But the statement that all the bankers were on that side is not consistent with the fact. Among the gentlemen selected by the honourable member himself for seats in the Senate, on account of their Confederation leanings, three were Halifax bankers; and two of the Candidates for that country, on the same side, at the last election, were also bank directors. Then he

tells us, that the honourable member for Hants agitated the country, and prevented a fair expression of opinion. But was there no agitation on the other side? The honourable member from Cumberland himself, tried his hand at it pretty extensively, and so did the honourable Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Hon. W. A. Henry, Attorney General of Nova Scotia during the last four years, as well as the Hon. Mr. McCully—all men of marked ability; and does he intend us to believe that the combined efforts of all these gentlemen had less influence with the people than the single handed labours of the honourable member for Hants? If he does, he has placed for once an estimate on his own abilities that he would not be too well pleased to have pronounced by any member on this side of the House. Another excuse for his defeat is the assertion that the Government were unpopular because of the new law establishing taxation for the support of schools. A brief statement of facts will show how unfounded is this position. The County of Yarmouth is warmly in favour of the new law. In the town of Yarmouth magnificent buildings for academies and schoolhouses, such as would be creditable to any city in the Dominion, have been erected; and the schools have been equipped, and are being conducted on a scale of generous expenditure that only a complete faith in the system, and desire for its success, could inspire. Yet in the County of Yarmouth no man could be found to offer as a candidate in the Confederate interest for the House of Commons, while of six candidates for the Local House, only one was a Confederate, and he polled less than an hundred votes out of the 2,744 electors of that fine county. After all those lame excuses, it was only necessary that the honourable gentleman should go one step farther, and admit that the people would not vote for Confederation, because he and his colleagues were so unpopular, they had so mismanaged the public business, and outraged public sentiment during their four years of office, that the people would not vote for them or accept their services, no matter on what plea they asked to be re-elected. The honourable gentleman presents a not very dignified spectacle, when he comes down to this House with such a bundle of inventions and excuses to account for the defeat of his party. How changed his position to-day from that he occupied two years ago, when with high-handed arrogance he treated his fellow-countrymen as serfs, without rights to be acknowledged, or feelings to be respected. Four