

but I soon discovered that His Excellency was in constant communication with that gentleman, and my colleagues and myself talked much of this matter and were much annoyed, and I from the first told His Excellency that this was not right, and I objected to it. On one or two occasions he suggested that we had better have some conversation with members of the opposition. I at once protested against this, and said that we would have nothing to do with the opposition, that whatever was done would be done with the consent and acquiescence of our friends, and without the aid of the opposition. That their great object was to upset us, as has been plainly shown ever since the opening of the Session, and we had felt during the whole of the debate on the vote of want of confidence, the disadvantage of having the secrets of Council communicated to the opposition, and I told His Excellency so time and time again, that his course was unfair and unjust.

His Excellency states that I said that the Report of the Committee might lead to an Address to Her Majesty to pass an Imperial Act for Union. This is just the opposite of the fact. He remarked that it might lead to such an Address. I have told him almost times without number that I would never consent to any such proceeding; and after it was rumoured, some ten or twelve days ago, that Nova Scotia was about to adopt that course, I spoke to His Excellency in terms of condemnation of such proceeding, and stated that I did not believe it possible that they would so act, that it would be an outrage upon the people. I have stated to him repeatedly that I would go for no Scheme of Union until I knew what its terms were. I have stated in the House several times during the debate, that the Government did not intend to propose any Scheme of Union, and this His Excellency has well known, and never expressed the slightest dissatisfaction. The whole matter was well understood by our supporters in the House. I had told them what we intended to do, viz., to have a Committee appointed. I have been very much dissatisfied with the way His Excellency has been acting, particularly for the last fortnight. In my interviews with him he seemed inclined to make trouble, and I felt he was under the influence of and acting with the opposition. He complained that the debate lasted so long, and that he was informed that the Government were purposely delaying it. I told him that this was utterly untrue, and the opposition had told him so to injure us. He, during this time, said to me, that he was not satisfied with the arrangement about the appointment of the Committee, that he had no assurance as to what the Committee would report. I told him that the Committee would report what they thought right, and he talked about the gentlemen who would compose the Committee. I always insisted that a majority should consist of our friends, and I told him repeatedly that we were prepared to carry out in good faith the arrangements that we had made, and that I insisted upon his doing the same.

In our conversation on Saturday last, I charged him with violating the agreement. He said that circumstances had changed. I replied that no circumstances had arisen to justify a departure from it. He said that he did not know at the time that the Legislative Council would take the course they did. I said we could not control the Legislative Council, that their proceedings were most extraordinary, and I was satisfied the people would not approve of them. In the course of the conversation he coolly remarked, "You had better give up and let me form a new Government, and pass it, and get it out of the way." I replied, no, Your Excellency, while I would rejoice to get rid of my office, we have our friends and the country behind, and we will not forsake them, and we never will surrender the seals of office to the other party so long as we can honorably hold them. I did not know the fact at the time, but have ascertained it since, that he had sent for Mr. Straton, the Clerk of the Executive Council, to swear in a new Government or some members of it, and Mr. Straton was at Government House at the time. His Excellency, I think, on the 7th March, on one occasion, when I was at Government House, handed me the letter he referred to; I read it, and then stated to him that I did not want such a letter, and declined to receive it, and handed it back to him.

Some time afterwards, about a fortnight or three weeks ago, Mr. Odell and I were at Government House, and as I was in the hall coming away, he came to the door of one of the ante-rooms and said, here is a letter for you. I took it, not knowing what it was, for if I had I should have declined to receive it as I did the former one, and Mr. Odell and I left. After we got into the carriage, I broke the seal and read it aloud. I was much dissatisfied, and so expressed myself to Mr. Odell. I felt that he wanted to get me into a