than anything else. And as proof I would just mention the circumstance that when the Sheriff went among them with a few special constables he ordered a number of them to go into a boat and row themselves to jail, with which order they complied. However, the resolution of his honor goes a little too far in my opinion, though it is very evident that if it had not been for the disturbance in Queen's County there would not have been any necessity for sending for troops. Those disturbances are a disgrace to the Colony, and I regret that we have to debate such a subject in this House. I would be glad to see the guilty parties punished, but at the same time we should endeavour to exonerate those who are not culpable.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I hardly expected the support of his honor the President for the more general we can make those disturbances appear to have been, the less odium will attach to Queen's County which his honor represents. But I have a duty to perform to my constituents and I will perform it fearlessly; and if the members of King's and Prince Counties allow odium to be cast upon their constituents, it is their fault, not mine. In this resolution I only intended to refer to the disturbances of last year; but if your honors are convinced that there has been some resistance to the law in those Counties at some previous time, I am willing to alter it in any reasonable way, providing it clears Prince and King's Counties of the odium which the paragraph in the address would throw upon them.

Hon. Mr. GOFF: I am sorry that his honor should cast reflections upon members of this House so much as to say that they would not do justice to all parts of the Island. But at the same time I believe there is some room for the resolution which his honor has submitted. Now, His Excellency says,—"The general prosperity of the past year has been marred by the civil disturbances which took place in several parts of this Colony." The Colony is divided into three parts or Counties, and Queen's County has been greatly disturbed. Happily the advice given by men in this County was not listened to in the other Counties; and as we are told that these disturbances took place in several parts of the Colony, I think it would be well to single out those parts in which they existed. If the disturbances were confined to Queen's County, which we would expect would be governed with more sense and discretion, it is very proper that it should bear the odium; and I would go further, if circumstances would permit, and single out those parts of Queen's County where the disturbances took place. But the resolution embraces, not only the events of the past year, but of all past time. If it were modified so as to say that disturbances took place in several parts of Queen's County which have retarded the prosperity of the Colony, I would support it.

Hon. the PRESIDENT: His honor from the first district of King's County (Mr. Dingwell) said he did not expect my support; no, nor he need never expect it to any document which I believe is not correct. His honor the chairman, was also the chairman of the committee which prepared the draft address, and he says, if the amendment were modified he would support it. Well, I think it is a very singular position for a chairman to place himself in. His Excellency says that disturbances took place in different parts of the Colony, but it is not customary to particularize in a speech at the opening of the session. It is very well known what parts of the country the disturbances took place in. That has been fully shown by the public prints. Therefore I do not think the paragraph in question objectionable.

Hon. Mr. GOFF: His honor the President says I was chairman of the Committee to prepare the draft address, and that I have now placed myself in a singular position. The explanation is that the idea suggested by the amendment never occurred to me. It was proposed some time ago to compel those districts in which the disturbances took place to bear the expense of suppressing them, but as we did not deem it proper to go that far I think it would be only an act of Justice to let the stigma rest upon them as a punishment. And though I was a member of the Committee which prepared the addresses, still I will admit that it is susceptible of improvement. At the same time I hope your honors will understand that I do not go for the amendment in its present shape.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: We should always understand what a resolution means before we would support it. I have been silent; not because I felt no interest in the matter, but because I thought it was proper for me, being the junior among your honors in politics, to listen and receive information rather than to appear familiar with proof. I would consider that there should be no objection to truth in any shape. And if that resolution was strictly confined to facts it would receive more support; but I believe it is not, from what is proverbially known respecting the soldiers going to King's County. Now, as to the next point, whether that disturbance was an organized resistance to the law I am not prepared to say; but if it was a mere ebullition of popular feeling I can only say that it took a very sharp edge when it shot the sheriff's horse or when it shaved his tail. The resolution, in my opinion, goes too far though I cannot see any objection to distinguishing Queen's County from the others in which there were no disturbances. And I hold that the members from those Counties have a right to be sensitive, but the House has also a right to see that nothing which is not fact should be allowed to supersede the paragraph in the address in answer to His Excellency's Speech. The amendment is not drawn in ambiguous phraseology but in clear English, and as it has been fully shown that it is not fact, even were I not a member of the Government I would not support it, not because I would throw a stigma which belongs to Queen's, upon either King's or Prince County.

Hon. Mr. WALKER: A good deal has been said about sending the soldiers to King's County; but when they did go they met with no resistance, and came back much pleased with their excursion. A few special constables took the men afterwards.

Hon. the PRESIDENT: Neither did the troops sent out to Queen's County last year meet with any resistance; but that does not prove that there was no disturbance or obstruction to the execution of the law; and, if we can believe the public prints, we must conclude that there were disturbances in Prince County; for we are told that there were meetings held in Lot 7 and other places, at which resolutions were passed to resist the collection of rent; and if the sheriff had been sent there at that time, he would probably have met with some resistance. They certainly had an organization there, and I was published in their organ, *Rose's Weekly*, though they did not go to such an extent as they did in Queen's County.

Hon. Mr. RAMSAY: It has been said that the Proprietors collected more rent during the past year than they did for four years previous, (Atty. Gen.—Hear), and do you suppose that there was none collected in Prince County? Can your honors suppose that the Agents have not been there looking after their rents? But we have not heard of any resistance. The people in that County may have held some meetings, and may have got up some agitation, but we cannot condemn them for doing so.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: His honor the President has alluded to meetings in Prince and King's Counties, but the people met for the purpose of coming to an understanding among themselves—not to resist the law. I attended a meeting myself, at which sentiments were uttered, and expressions made use of, which I considered too strong. I showed them that it was their duty and would be for their interest to abide by the law. Taat was the last meeting I heard of in King's County. If other members of the Legislature had done so, I do not think there would have been any necessity for sending for troops. That was the time to have shown the people that it was wrong to resist the law. Therefore, I think it is unfair that people who took advice should be stigmatized as having caused disturbances.

Hon. Mr. McLAREN: With regard to those disturbances, I believe there was no resistance in King's County to justify the Government in sending for troops; but it is well known that there was an attempt made to set up that organization, the Tenant League, among the people. It is well known that parties were sent through the country by the Central Committee to hold meetings, and in different places they appeared carrying flags. We have only to refer to their organ, *Rose's Weekly*, for a confirmation of these statements. Some thought the organization was nearly as extensive in King's as in Queen's County; but I am glad to say that after those parties, who were trying to inflame the people's minds, had left, they returned to their peaceful avocations. But I do not go for making a distinction. The Island should be taken as a whole. If we make a distinction between Counties, we should make a little distinction between Districts, otherwise we would be doing as much injustice to some districts of Queen's County as we would be doing to King's or Prince County by leaving the paragraph in the address as it is at present. I do not, therefore, see the propriety of making a distinction. His honor the Chairman lives in King's County, and it is natural for him to endeavor to maintain the character of that County, but his honor should remember that he is a representative of Queen's County.

Hon. Mr. GOFF: I rise to explain. I said in supporting the views set forth in the amendment, that the charge of disaffection should be confined to the County in which it was openly shown. I did so from a sense of justice. I represent the County which is blamed for being riotous, though I live in King's County.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: I am far from being desirous to prolong this discussion, and I think sufficient has been said to show that the organization called the Tenant League had an existence in King's and Prince Counties, and it is not at all improbable that if a military force had not been brought here that there would have been open resistance to the law. They could smell a rat; and when the soldiers were brought here they would not send them a challenge, saying—come on and we will resist you.

Hon Mr. Dingwell's proposed amendment was then, by leave, withdrawn; and the Hon. Mr. McDonald submitted the following amendment:

"That the general prosperity of the Island has been marred by disturbances which took place in the Colony during the past year; but as those disturbances were confined to certain sections of Queen's County, we would respectfully represent to your Excellency that the inhabitants of King's and Prince Counties have maintained the supremacy of the law, and have not offered any organized resistance to the Civil authorities during the period referred to in your Excellency's address."

That resolution, said his honor, (Mr. McDonald) conveys my opinion on the subject, and I think it also conveys the intention of his honor who moved the first resolution. I do not see how any gentleman from those Counties can agree to the paragraph in the address. His Excellency says: "The general prosperity of the past year has been marred by the civil disturbances which took place in several parts of this Colony." That statement would convey the idea that the whole Island was in this disturbed state. Now, I cannot concur in that view of the case, for even in some parts of Queen's County there was no organized resistance to the law. And in King's County, I have reason to know that the Civil authorities had no difficulty in serving writs and executions, and the various documents put in their hands by the agents of proprietors or others who had debts to collect. One of your honors has said that meetings were held in King's County, and strong sentiments were uttered, but when they were shown the folly of resisting the law, quietly dispersed; and I have no doubt that, if leading minds in other parts of the country had been governed by the same motives, and had acted as discreetly, there would not have been any disturbances in the Colony. I have had some conversation with a number of those gentlemen, and they deprecate resistance to the law. They also disapproved of the original constitution of the Tenant League. Now, the speakers at the meetings in King's County, as far as I am aware, disapproved of forcible resistance to the payment of rent. They wanted a constitutional agitation of the question for the purpose of getting the land purchased from the proprietors and conveyed to the tenants. Your honors will admit that they were perfectly justified in this course. The first I heard of the Tenant League, or, as it was called at that time, the "Tenant Union," was at Murray Harbor, where the tenants were paying high rent on very inferior land. They formed a union to endeavor to obtain some redress, and, in carrying out their intentions, they sent a remonstrance to the proprietor, showing the high rent they were paying as compared with other Townships in the Island. The consequence was, that the proprietor made a reduction of about six pence in their rent. This took place, I believe, some months before the formation of what is known as the Tenant League, and those tenants then gave up the agitation of the question, as far as I know. Since that time I know the Sheriff has had a number of writs to serve, and I have not heard of any resistance to him. I do not look upon it as resistance to the Sheriff if a man keeps out of the way, or runs away to the woods, or shuts his door and keeps the Sheriff out. Every man's house is his castle, and he is justified in keeping his door shut and keeping officers of the law out unless he has committed a criminal act. I know the Sheriffs have lately served a great number of writs—more, I suppose, within the last two years than for a number of years previously, which shows that there could not have been a very extensive opposition to them. I do not wish to let the people of King's and Prince Counties lie under the imputation of disloyalty which is thrown upon them by the paragraph in His Excellency's speech, but would let it be known that they are ready to support the majesty of the law and the Civil authorities without the aid of soldiers. As to calling in a military force, I cannot judge of the necessity of doing so. The Government being responsible, probably judged that there was a necessity for calling in the military. Judging from the public prints, I could not form a correct opinion, but from the very fact that the disturbance was confined to the tenantry, and not even general among them, I think that there must have been a sufficient number of people, even in this County, who were willing to maintain the supremacy of the law without the employment of the military; but, as the Government were doubtless the best judges of the matter, I do not throw any blame upon them.

Hon. the PRESIDENT: I do not think it throws a stigma upon Prince or King's County any more than it does on Belfast or the first district of Queen's County. If we single out the districts, it would be particularizing, a course which we have never adopted in answering His Excellency's speech; therefore, I am not inclined to support the amendment. His honor from the first district of King's County (Mr. Dingwell) spoke as if I were opposed to the tenantry meeting and consulting together, but I am not. At the same time, I am not prepared to support the people in meeting and passing seditious resolutions; no loyal subject would do so.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL: If I am to understand this motion as simply an amendment to the paragraph in the address, I would simply suggest that it could be made more effective, and probably less objectionable to members of this House, by substituting the words "Queen's County" for "Colony." But I apprehend that the amendment is brought forward with a view to supersede the whole paragraph. If so, I must give it my opposition. The paragraph, as it stands, conveys my views on the subject; and taking the facts of the case into consideration, I do not think we can come to any other conclusion than that contained in the address. I would deem it necessary to say a few words upon the necessity for importing a military force, to which reference has been made by several of your honors. I regret that the necessity should have arisen for a military force to enforce the laws of the country. It will certainly have a bad effect, in the estimation of our neighbors, upon the reputation of the Colony. But it is impossible for us to shut our eyes to the fact that a league existed for purposes evidently illegal. It may be said that they only wished to enforce their peculiar views by moral means, and thus to obtain, what they conceived to be, the rights of the tenantry. But we can only judge of their motives by their acts; and if we look at their acts and declarations, I do not think we can limit their intention to carrying out their views by constitutional means. They had resisted the lawful authorities of the Island when those authorities went forth, sworn to carry the laws into effect. And, indeed, blood was shed in one instance, and nearly shed in other instances; some received very serious bodily harm. Therefore, as those persons assembled in large numbers, with formidable threats and menaces, the country was alarmed and agitated, and the civil authorities were found insufficient to carry the laws into effect. I regret that the people of this Colony should have taken such an injudicious, and unwise and unconstitutional course to obtain their rights. I do not find fault with men for combining to carry their views in a political or constitutional manner. I would be sorry to see any community deprived of that privilege. But if, in any British Colony, there was a necessity for such means as the people resorted to, there certainly was none in this Island, for the people themselves are the seat of power—the power emanates from themselves. There is no part of the British dominions where the people have so much power in their own hands as they have in this Colony, for we have universal suffrage; so that the power which places us here—the power which elects the House of Assembly—the power which appoints every official in the Colony, and I would almost include the Lieutenant Governor himself, emanates from the people; for no Governor could hold his seat against the wishes of the people constitutionally expressed. There is no such power, so widely extended, in any British Colony, nor even in Great Britain itself. In this Colony there is nothing to prevent any measure which is constitutional from being carried; but to attempt to carry a measure by unconstitutional means, is to defeat their own object. Therefore, the tenant league took a very unwise course, because, by the power which they might have availed themselves of, if properly used, they could doubtless have obtained whatever any reasonable man could expect—men who were at all willing to yield to the constitutional principles by which the Colony is governed. And though that body may have embraced a large number of respectable persons yet I am certain that they were very much misled and deceived by those who undertook to conduct the business for them. It is evident that their leaders, instead of having any well devised or digested scheme, were without anything of the kind. Their only plan was to withhold the payment of rent, and consequently, when the day of trial came, they failed. Now, they thus gave cause to the Government to introduce the troops, which has called forth the observations of some of your honors. The consequence is, that they have done a very material injury to the Colony by casting a stain upon the character of its inhabitants in the estimation of our neighbors, and which was much worse than we really deserved. And even in Great Britain, this Island was considered as the Ireland of the North American Colonies. I do not regret the introduction of the troops, though I regret that they were introduced for such a purpose; and I also regret that the tenants have defeated their own ends, for the proprietors now rejoice at their overt acts; for I know that some of the proprietors who discountenanced some of the statesmen of the Island, are now ready to approve and pat them on the back. And though the expense of bringing the troops here and providing for their accommodation appears large, because it is extraordinary, yet I feel assured that the money expended by them in this Colony will be ample remuneration for the expenditure. Now, I think that less could not well be said than what is expressed in the paragraph before your honors; and I must only express my regret that the conduct of those men has been such as to call for the assistance of troops to enforce the laws, for I look upon the injury done to the character of the people as a much more serious affair than the addition to the public expenditure which has been called for by their introduction. I hope and trust, and I think there are indications, that those people have amended their ways, and I also hope that they will find out they are the seat of constitutional power, and that there are means within their reach by which they may advance their interests without violating the laws of the Colony. I am not disposed to provoke anything like an uncomfortable discussion on this, or any other paragraph in the address. The whole debate seems to have arose from what appears to some of your honors to include the whole Island in the disturbances alluded to, but it is morally correct as it is, though perhaps it might have been a little more definite as to the localities where those disturbances arose. Had the motion been confined to that, I do not think I should have risen to trouble your honors with these remarks.

House resumed and progress reported.

Adjourned till four o'clock, p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House, in Committee, again resumed the consideration of the address in answer to His Excellency's speech.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: We complain that the terms of the paragraph are too general—that the whole Island is involved in a small affair. That amendment confines it to particular parts of the Colony. If your honors is inclined to throw odium on the country you have it in your power to do so, and you have power, by supporting the amendment, to throw it where it should be. There is no reflection upon the Government in the amendment.

Hon. Mr. BEER: Very few persons abroad will read the paragraph in the address, and those who do, will, most likely, read his honor's speech as well.

The question was then put on the amendment and the committee divided:—

CONTENTS—Hon. Messrs. McDonald, Dingwell, and Walker—3.

NON-CONTENTS—Hon. Messrs. Atty. Gen., President, Henderson, Beer, McLaren, Ramsay, and Anderson—7.

Hon. Mr. McLAREN: It is very true that there was no disturbance or resistance to the law in King's County, but it is well known that the tenant league organization had an existence there: the people themselves well admit that it had. The paragraph alludes to disturbances in several parts of the Colony, and not only so but to organizations which caused the disturbances, and can any of your honors say that King's County was free from those organizations?

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: It is a fact that there was an attempt made by the League, when Mr. Montgomery was negociating with the Government for the sale of his estate, to interpose their peculiar services between them; and there was a counteraction on the part of the people, who said that the league had done enough as obstructives.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: Do your honors wish to say that any body of tenants who should combine to ask the proprietors to concede certain rights would be acting inconstitutionally? I have had it from a proprietor's own lips that he had all but concluded terms with the people for the sale of his estate. And it was shown, before the troops came here, that the resolutions of the tenant league were too strong; consequently the people in the Eastern association.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: His honor who has just sat down may have intended his remarks to be clear and distinct, but I think this construction has a tendency to confound things that differ. The question is not the extent to which the league existed in Prince and King's Counties, but whether or not it had an existence at all. And the very fact that they attempted to interpose between Mr. Montgomery and the Government shows that they existed and had not given over their tactics at that time—that they had not abandoned their design of enforcing their views, not by constitutional means, but by their peculiar dogmas.

Hon. Mr. WALKER: I would just ask your honors if a league existed from the East Point to the North Cape, and did not violate the laws, would there be a necessity for Troops? I do not care how many organizatio exist as long as they do not violate the laws of the Colony, and if the people of Queen's County had not offered resistance to the laws, the Government would have no excuse for sending for Troops.

Hon. Mr. HENDERSON: We have not yet disposed of the question whether or not the organization referred to had or had not an existance in either of those Counties. For my part I intend to reserve to myself the privilege of going over the whole subject at a future time. I in the mean time, I wish only to make a few remarks, so that your honors may give a clear verdict on the subject.

Hon. Mr. DINGWELL: I am at a loss to understand the distinction which his honor is wishing to draw. Does his honor mean that tenants who associate together have not a right to offer terms to their proprietors without having the odium of being in a state of rebellion attached to them?

LETTER FROM THE HON. JOSEPH HOWE TO THE PEOPLE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:—

On my return to Nova Scotia last November, after seven months spent on public business in the United States and in England, I had scarcely enjoyed a week of domestic repose when I was honored by an ungenerous personal attack in a newspaper supporting the Government. The letter which I wrote in reply is the only article I have written or "inspired" in any Provincial newspaper since. I left home for Washington in January, and for three months was engaged in closing up the business of the Fishery Commission, devoting my leisure hours, and such opportunities of extensive intercourse as I enjoyed with the leading men of the great Republic, to the task of explaining the views and policy of the Provinces, and endeavoring to soften the feelings of hostility which had arisen out of the action of our people and of the Imperial Government during the civil war.

I scarcely land in Nova Scotia when I am again dragged into the newspapers by officers and organs of the Government—the motive and the inspiration being not very far to seek. I presume that my presence in my native Province is distasteful to some persons, and that, if they could drive me out of it, it would better suit their book. I am reluctant to be driven, when, as it would appear, an imposing ceremonial is in preparation. "I stood by the cradle of her liberties," and may be wanted "to follow the hearse." But of this, anon.

While in Washington, Congress was in session, and I had the opportunity, never enjoyed before for so long a period, to study the practical working of Republican institutions, and to see and hear the leading men now mingling in the stirring scenes of American public life.

On my return home I waited upon the Lieutenant Governor and upon General Doyle, and gave them my impressions as to the state of affairs across the border. During the fortnight which has elapsed since, I have given to any body who asked them, in the streets or in society, my opinions with equal freedom. To those who enquired about the organization, I have said that it was formidable and not to be despised. That it embraced every city and town and village where Irishmen dwell in the United States—that the proverbial generosity of a successful people, who gave liberally of their substance when their feelings were touched, placed large sums of money at its disposal; and that as great numbers of the Fenians had been under fire during the late civil war, they combined, within the order, a fair share of discipline and experience. I have said further that, as the American Government, in disbanding 800,000 men, had permitted each man to carry off his rifle and accoutrements on payment of six dollars, the country was full of arms, of the most approved construction, to be purchased for a song. That, as for nine months past, the Government has been selling, at all the military and naval arsenals and depots, ships, cannon, shot, clothing, waggons, ambulances, and every description of war material, at low prices, the Fenians could provide themselves with stores and transportation at a figure far below what they would have had to pay if the articles were purchased at first cost.

When asked if I thought the Fenians could muster any force that could conquer either or all of these Provinces, I have invariably answered no. That, if the Fenians come alone, and if we are true to ourselves, we can repel them at every point of the frontier, or should they effect a lodgment speedily drive them out. But the real danger is, that they may not come alone. Unhappily there prevails in the United States a wide spread feeling of hostility to the Provinces arising out of the sympathy for the South manifested during the civil war. This feeling has been strong enough to induce Congress to throw over the Reciprocity Treaty, and to risk collisions upon the fishing grounds and an enormous amount of trade. And then, every man who has had a ship captured by the Shenandoah, Alabama, or other cruisers built in England, attributes his loss to the supineness or connivance of the British Government, and is a Fenian of the most irate description.

But will not the American Government interfere? This question is often put to me, and I answer, I believe and hope they will. Mr. Gladstone evidently thinks and Sir Fred. Bruce is confident they will. But the danger lies here. At this moment the Cabinet at Washington is involved in complications of no ordinary kind. The great Republican party and the President have been at issue, upon the reconstruction policy, for ten weeks, and one branch has just passed a bill over the veto by a two thirds majority. Both parties appealing to the country for support. The Fenians are said to control a million of votes, and certainly make up a formidable portion of the Democratic party that supports the President. Those who cherish hard feelings against the Provinces and the British Government control a good many more. Out of these complications no human being, at this moment, can tell what may or may not arise. In the mean while a flying squadron has been ordered to the North Atlantic, and a formidable iron Ram, with double turrets, is said to be coming with it. Let us hope and pray for the prevalence of peaceful feelings, but let us complete our coast defences and keep our powder dry.

There is another source of danger. Eight hundred thousand young men, accustomed to war, to the excitement of raid and to the license of camp life, have been recently disbanded. Should the Fenians make a raid, perhaps, in the first instance, none but Irishmen may come. But should these, when the frost is out of the ground, entrench themselves and hold any part of our territory for ten days, who can say how long all the fighting will be left to the Fenians,—and should others come, what wild excitement may not sweep over some of those great border States when a few dead bodies are sent home? Who can tell how many horses may not be saddled in the warlike West? Here are our chances of peace and our perils fairly stated, as I have stated them to those in authority, and to anybody who asked me during the past fortnight. Taking the calmest view of the whole field, I am free to admit that, while hoping for the best and counting on the good faith of the Government, I cannot but fee that circumstances may arise very difficult to control, and that may test the manhood and resources of the Provinces before very many weeks. If war should come we may be saved by the gabbling of geese, but are more likely to be by honest men telling each other the truth, and standing shoulder to shoulder till the fiery trial is over.

When in England last summer, Mr. Cardwell did me the honor to place in my hands the law which extends to the Colonies the Naval Reserve Act of England, with copies of his own speeches explanatory of the measure; and asked my opinion of the best mode to carry the law out in these Provinces. In a paper which was afterwards submitted, and which embraced various topics, I ventured to suggest "The enrolment of all seafaring men from 16 to 60 as a Naval Reserve, the effective men between 18 and 45 being obliged to serve on board of block ships, harbor defences, or in any of Her Majesty's ships on the station; or in forts or water batteries, for the same number of days which effective militiamen were obliged to serve on shore." I am glad to see that this policy is to be carried out, and hope that it may be an entire success.

We have in the four Maritime Provinces 63,393 fishermen and sailors. War will make the sea unsafe for our fishing schooners and heavy tonnage unless we can keep it. If we cannot, every Colony and Dependency all over the world is at the mercy of some war ship. The natural vocation of these sixty-three thousand men is to help Old England to keep the sea. Canada has 5958 fishermen and seamen, but will want them all for her gulf and lake defences. Ours should train in peace around the shores and be prepared to volunteer for the war. Every man who has influence with our people should do his best to make them understand this measure and the necessity for it. Her Majesty has done me the honor to send me two or three times round the coasts, as a Royal Commissioner, in her ships, and I shall do myself the honor to present myself with a blue jacket on, on board the first one that is detailed for instruction by the Naval Commander-in-Chief, and endeavor to set an example which I trust may be extensively followed. I am past the age for militia service, but I think I can help to work a gun, and at all events our hardy fellows shall see that there are no labors or perils which they are asked to confront which I am not willing to share.

So much for foreign affairs and coast defences. I am now compelled to touch another topic which, for the present at all events, I would gladly put aside. It is one that, in my judgment, has been thrown before our people at a most unseasonable time, and is calculated, at a moment when all should be harmonious, to create divisions, and intense exasperation.

The late Abraham Lincoln once remarked that it was not exactly the time to swop horses when you were crossing a river. We are now passing through a period which is calculated to try every resource—mental, physical, and financial—of these Provinces. Is this the time to unsettle their institutions, and to distract the minds of the people with new political experiments? I think not; and I deeply regret that anybody has revived a discussion that should have been postponed to calmer times.

When at Detroit, in July last, I ventured to declare that no commercial changes—no political pressure—brought to bear upon the people of British America by their neighbors, could shake their attachment to their flag and to the institutions under which they lived. The Fenians have thought proper to test our loyalty, and they have got their answer. In every Province the young men have sprang to arms, and on the question of defence there is no difference of opinion. But, bear in mind that all this loyalty, unanimity, and enthusiasm, are the fruits of self government, and have grown up under the institutions which we now enjoy. At this moment it may be truly said that the people of those Provinces are more unanimous in devotion to the flag of England than are the inhabitants of the Mother Country. Why change all this? We have much to lose. What have we to gain? Some gentlemen propose what they call the Quebec Scheme of Confederation; others desire a Union of the Maritime Provinces; and one gentleman gravely propose that the two Branches of the Legislature should ignore their functions, and should depute to some half dozen persons the power to arrange a new system of government in England, which is to be forthwith embodied in an act of Parliament, and is to bind the people of all the Colonies without being submitted to their Legislatures or to the electors at the hustings. I hope I do not misstate the proposition. I was not in the House, but take it as reported, and if it was a joke accept it as a good one, but if made seriously, then I do not know the Representative Assembly on the face of the earth, entrusted with the liberties and interests of a free people, who would thus betray them. The Legislature of Nova Scotia may do this thing, but if they do, we ought certainly to thank Providence that we are never to have another.

Now my proposition is very simple. It is to let well enough alone. I am reminded of the inscription on the tombstone of a person given to trying medical rather than political experiments: "I was well—wished to be better—took physic, got sick and died." Let us borrow wisdom from the stone, and not destroy our sound Constitution by eccentric innovations. We have work enough to do just now for every man in the Province, in organizing our Militia, training Naval Brigades, building batteries and studying the art of war. If enemies come, they should meet a band of brothers, standing together in unity of thought and design. If we are found tinkering our Constitution, and engaged in such acrimonious discussions as this new proposition has stirred up within a few days, we shall certainly present an unseemly spectacle to gods and men.

If no enemies come, we shall have leisure for political speculations by and bye, and all who are disposed can take a hand in. Just now we should stick to "the argument of pike and gun," being the only sensible elements of discussion with the people over the way. My own views and policy have been a good deal distorted, from time to time, with reference to these political questions; but I am content to wait till the hour comes to do myself justice. The main thing to do now is to organize and prepare for the worst. We can afford to be disappointed if the Fenians do not come, but we cannot afford to be unprepared, and least of all can we afford to be found overthrowing our institutions, matured and developed by our own Legislature, in presence of the people, that we may have ople and spun new ones, made to order by a few gentlemen in England, and sent out, like the cigar ship, as an experiment in political navigation. The noble constitution of the Parent State was not constructed after this fashion, but should it want revision, is there an Englishman who would propose to leave the matter to a committee whose judgment would be final, without any power of acceptance by the Parliament or people of England? "The history of our own institutions," says an English writer, "ought to teach us that constitutions are not made, but grow; and that to be strong and respected, they must be developed by a nation itself, out of its own character and circumstances, and not imposed on it, however benevolently, from without. The constitution of Nova Scotia has grown out of its character and circumstances, and a more prosperous, self-governed and happy country is not to be found within the Empire or beyond it. My advice to you is, to let well alone, at all events until assured that peace is to be preserved. I do not believe that any Novascotian will fight the better when he discovers that the constitution of his country is broken down, and that some ingenious gentlemen, three thousand miles away, and trying to manufacture another, and that, whether he likes it or not, he and his posterity are to be bound by their action forever.

But we are told that a majority either has been or will be combined to perpetrate this outrage. I do not believe it. Nobody better understands the nature and the extent of the influences which will be brought to bear, but I pray sincerely that there may be found, even in the present House of Assembly, firmness and virtue sufficient to resist them. If not, the people will even then have some power of self protection. When satisfied that they are to be over-powered, the minority can send an indignant protest to the foot of the Throne, retire to their homes, and leave the majority to complete the work without the sanction of their presence.

The people should then prepare to fight the battle in England. Every county should petition the Imperial Parliament to stay proceedings till the question has been decided at the Hustings. the people should choose their own Delegates. the other Provinces should be asked to cooperate, and through the Press, and at the Bar of the Lords and Commons, the question should be ventilated until it is thoroughly understood. I have yet to learn that the high-spirited and liberty-loving noblemen and gentlemen of the Mother Country will break down four free Parliaments in defiance of public opinion.

If they do we are not then without resources. I am aware that nineteen members may be told that they will be legislated by Act of Parliament into the red seas at Ottawa. Such an atrocity as this the House of Commons will never sanction. Every man, before he gets to Ottawa, must go before the people, and we may trust them to put aside those who have betrayed them, and to select good men and true to represent their interests. This programme is very simple, and will be easily understood and acted on, or I am much mistaken, with spirit and unanimity.

I would gladly have devoted the remainder o my life to the literature I love, and to such employment as Her Majesty's Government might find for me at home or abroad. But I have breathed the air of Nova Scotia from childhood; for a quarter of a century, I was honored with a large amount of public confidence; I hope to rest beneath her soil: and while I deprecate the agitation of this vexed question at this time, if it comes I am prepared to meet it, and will cast in my lot with those who stand by the institutions of our country.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

JOSEPH HOWE.

8th April, 1866.

ALL SORTS OF PARAGRAPHS.

CRICKET.—The following gentlemen were elected officers of the Charlottetown Cricket Club on the 12th inst for the ensuing year:—

Patron, His Worship the Mayor; President, John Brecken; Vice do., D. Davies; Secretary and Treasurer, A. Heasley; Assistant do.; A. Swabey.

Committee—J. T. Jenkins, W. Pethick, B. DesBrisay, A. Sims, J. Peake, L. H. Davies, and W. Welsh.

G. D. Atkinson, Field Captain.

It was also agreed that the days for practice should be Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays in each week.

The troop ship "Simoom," from Malta, with the 22d Regt. on board, arrived at St. John, N. B., on Monday evening last. The "Tamar," from the same place, with the 4th Regt. on board, is now hourly expected here. On the arrival of the 4th Regt., two companies, with the women and children, will disembark here, and the remainder of the regiment will remain on board to await orders from the Commander-in-Chief. If the services of more troops are required in New Brunswick, the whole of the 4th will disembark and remain here, and the 2d 16th, instead of proceeding to Barbadoes, will proceed to St. John, N. B.—HX. *Express.*

Two companies of H. M. 4th Regt. now expected here from Malta, will relieve the two companies of the 15th now stationed in P. E. Island.—HX. *Express.*

It is generally understood that H. M. 2nd 16th Regt. will not proceed to Barbadoes, as previously arranged, but will likely proceed to New Brunswick, the 4th remaining at this place. The 15th Regt. will also remain in New Brunswick and not to proceed to Bermuda. The steamers *Simoom* and *Tamar* are now hourly expected from Malta. The former vessel has on board the 22nd, for New Brunswick, and the latter the 4th Regt., for this place.—[HX. Express.

H. M. Ship "Duncan," with Admiral Sir James Hope, General Doyle and Staff, 500 officers and men of the 2nd 17th Regt., one Company of the Royal Artillery, and one of the Royal Engineers, left here yesterday morning for St. John, N. B. The departure of the these troops from this station made it necessary for the Commander-in-Chief to call out the Militia Artillery for the performance of garrison duty.

Like a thunder clap from a clear sky has fallen upon the people the announcement respecting His Excellency's share in the manufacture of that celebrated despatch to Mr. Cardwell. What will the Opposition papers say now? Poor Mr. Fisher! It is no wonder that His Excellency manifested repugnance at taking him into his Councils, after the terms mean, low fellow, applied to the author of that despatch.—[St. John Globe.

H. M. S. Tamar arrived at this port on Friday morning, bringing the 4th regiment from Malta, and two companies of which disembarked on Saturday for P. E. Island, and the remainder proceeded to the Citadel. The Tamar is an iron ship of 2812 tons, and 500 horse-power.

☞ Some original matter, and a summary of proceedings of the House of Assembly, prepared for this day's paper, are unavoidably crowded out.

We copy the following suggestive paragraph from a Nova Scotia exchange paper. We shall see, ere many days, what truth there is in the expectation thus held out: "No allusion to Confederation was made by the Lieut. Governor of P. E. Island in his speech at the opening of the Legislature. It is expected, however, that the subject will be introduced and passed upon during the Session.