

sound policy, they shall have my aid in the great work in which they are engaged. I hope we may find a common ground of co-operation in our efforts to improve our present condition of isolation and obscurity, and elevate Nova Scotia to the position nature intended her to occupy. But, sir, do not let me be supposed to underrate the present position of this Province. Far from it. Even as she is, I am proud of my country, and grateful for the happy homes she affords her sons. Yet proud, sir, as I am of the little sea-girt Province I call my native land; proud as I am of her free institutions, her moral and intellectual status, her material wealth; proud as I am of the name of Nova Scotian, a name which the genius and valour of my countrymen have inscribed high on the scroll of fame; proud I say as I am, and may well be permitted to be, of these things, I have never ceased to entertain the hope, expressed in this Legislature in 1864, that the day was near at hand, when you, sir, and I, and those who listen to me, in common with the inhabitants of all these noble Provinces, united under one Government, might stand before the world in the prouder national character of British Americans.

[On the 10th day of April, 1866, the leader of the Government, Hon. Charles (now Sir Charles) Tupper, made an elaborate speech on the subject of Confederation, and moved a resolution in accordance with Mr. Miller's views, which was carried after a week's debate with a large majority, —concluding his speech as follows:—"Having, therefore, given the subject the most

careful consideration; having submitted the proposition of the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Miller) to the Government, and to the gentlemen who are opposed to us politically, but who are associated with us on this question, we have come to the conclusion, that it is our duty to the House and to the country, to meet in all frankness the proposal that has been made. We feel that difficulties have arisen in connection with the Quebec scheme which require such an arrangement as has been proposed, in order to remove the objections that exist. I can only say, in reference to this matter, that as Canada has accepted the basis of the Quebec scheme by a large majority, that any alteration in the terms obtained from the Imperial Government must be more favorable to the Maritime Provinces."

During the previous year, a general election took place in New Brunswick, when Hon. Mr. (now Sir Leonard) Tilley's Government was badly defeated on the Quebec scheme of Union, and Hon. Mr. (afterwards Sir Albert) Smith, the leader of the Anti-union party in that province, was called on to form a new Ministry. At the time of the passage of the Union resolution in the Nova Scotia Legislature, this Ministry appeared to be strongly intrenched in office; but almost immediately after the passage of that resolution Lieut.-Governor Gordon (on the 8th May, 1866), dissolved the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, with the result that the Tilley Government was again returned to power on the question of Confederation, with a good majority. This change was no doubt due to the altered circumstances of the country, and the changed aspect of the Union question, and was, of course, greatly influenced by the success of the Union Party in Nova Scotia. Thus was the way cleared in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for the consummation of the Union.

It is well known, that the London Conference of 1866-67 largely modified the financial conditions of the Quebec scheme in favor of Nova Scotia, which were afterwards much improved by the "better terms" secured by the Hon. Joseph Howe from the Parliament of Canada for that Province.]