

decision of the people, instead of its being determined by the people's representatives. Such a demand, to his mind, betrayed a great ignorance, not only of the principles of the British Constitution, but of the principles on which all Parliamentary Government was founded."

His lordship had read the history of his own country to little purpose when he could make that declaration. What is that history composed of for the last two hundred years but the history of men oftentimes struggling through bloodshed to the enjoyment of their rights—the record of men of great intellect—men whose names have been emblazoned on the roll of fame, fighting for the great principles which have made England the mistress of the world, the country to which every distressed nationality resorts as a city of refuge, under whose flag the exile is safe. Once upon the soil of Britain the fugitive is no longer likely to be stricken down; but in laying the foundation stone of the new nationality I say let us not begin the work by striking down what has cost England centuries to build up—what has been so long established in the hearts and affections of the people. Get the sympathies of the people with you, and then go on building the superstructure. Let it come to be understood that the rights of the people are one matter, and the rights of the governing oligarchy another, or that any oligarchy can control the country, striking down the independence of the people and reducing them to a condition of serfdom, and the freedom and glory of the parent country no longer belong to us. After delivering that speech in the House of Lords I wonder how his lordship could come down to Parliament and use this language—

"I congratulate you on the Legislative sanction which has been given by the Imperial Parliament to the Act of Union, under the provisions of which we are now assembled, and which has laid the foundation of a new nationality that I trust and believe will ere long extend its bounds from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean."

He congratulates the people of the Dominion on building up this confederation, but did he not remember the damaging record that stood against him on the other side of the ocean, when he made that declaration in the House of Lords to influence that august assemblage in supporting the legislature that undertook to give away the country, and to break down every barrier that had been placed in their way? Did he forget that he had gone across the ocean in the train of the delegates, to take his place as a peer of the realm, to assist in carrying Confederation, and there to state that the agitation in Nova Scotia was the work of a half dozen individuals? If he was so instructed by his friends, the Delegates at that time, then since the 18th of September he has been undecieved, and he should since have acknowledged that up to that time he had not known the true state of the case.

We have heard a great deal, as I have said, about disloyalty, and without wishing to detain the House, I will merely turn attention to the mode in which this measure was carried. The country

believes that the Confederation act was passed through the legislature by corruption and fraud—that His Excellency General Williams, when he was sent out here, came for the sole purpose of carrying the measure—prepared to resort to any means—and lent himself, through his government, to that design. I believe that if certain festivities at Government House had never taken place, we would not be engaged in this discussion to-day. It reminds me of a dark day in old Ireland's history, when her free legislature was sold for English gold, when bribery laid the country waste, and inflicted upon it the terrible woes that succeeding generations have inherited. In May's Constitutional history, I find this passage on that subject:

"Lord Castlereagh estimated the cost of these expedients at a million and a half, and the price was forthcoming. The purchase of boroughs was no new scheme, having been proposed by Mr. Pitt himself, on the basis of his measure of Parliamentary reform in 1785, and now it was systematically carried out in Ireland. The patrons of boroughs received £7,500 for each seat, and eighty-four boroughs were disfranchised. Lord Devonshire was paid £52,500 for seven seats, Lord Ely £45,000 for six. The total compensation amounted to £1,260,000. Peers were further compensated for the loss of their privileges in the national council by profuse promises of English peerages, or promotion in the peerage of Ireland; commoners were conciliated by new honors, and by the largesses of the British government. Places were given or promised, pensions multiplied, secret service money exhausted. In vain Lord Cornwallis complained of the "political jobbing" and "dirty business" in which he was "involved beyond all bearing," and "longed to kick those whom his public duty obliged him to court." In vain he "despised and hated himself, while negotiating and jobbing with the most corrupt people under heaven." British gold was sent for and distributed, and, at length, in defiance of threats of armed resistance, in spite of insidious promises of relief to Catholics, and corrupt defection among the supporters of the government, the cause was won."

The luckless viceroy applied to himself the appropriate lines of Swift:

So to effect his monarch's ends
From hell a viceroy devil ascends,
This budget with corruption crammed
The constitutions of the damned
Which with unsparing hand he stroves
Through courts and senates as he goes,
And then at Beelzebub's black hall
Complains his budget is too small.

How aptly this language can be applied to the gentlemen who carried on the work of corruption in this country:—they must, like Alexander, have wept because they had no more worlds to conquer when they got weak-kneed politicians to Government House under the influence of the appliances which eventually induced them to hand over the political rights of this country to the Canadian government. The people, I say, took this ground; and in battling for their rights and privileges, and asking for free discussion and debate, they have been charged by