

itself was scarcely of greater importance to the Colony than this one; and he trusted before any step was taken by the House in the matter that it should be thoroughly ventilated.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH thought the whole question was a mere Nova Scotian feeler, but neither Canada, New Brunswick, or Nova Scotia had committed themselves with regard to this proposition. He understood that it was a favourite scheme of Mr Howe to knit the Colonies together, upon the two points of defence and finance. He (Mr L.) knowing that Prince Edward Island was self dependent, should not sacrifice her dearest interests, as he feared she would do if this proposition should be successfully carried out. Cape Breton were like themselves at one time; now it was a mere appendage to Nova Scotia, forming only three or four counties attached to that Colony.

Hon Mr WARBURTON—Yes, in the same way and with the same results as the joining Ireland to England.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH—The plan of this great scheme had been altogether undefined by any agent, or even any honorable member who had spoken upon the subject, and he believed that no thorough plan had been devised; but even should it be devised and sent in at a future session, he trusted the House would not sanction it, nor the people approve of it; if they did so they would lose their identity as a Colony, no matter however small. Annexation to the other Colonies, in British North America, cannot recompense Prince Edward Island for the loss of independence. He moved a resolution to that effect.

Hon Mr LAIRD seconded the resolution.

Hon Col GRAY agreed with part of the resolution, but he feared that, in grasping suppositious difficulties, they might be deceiving themselves. In the proposed union, Canada, part of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island might amicably join in a Federal Union. Take Rhode Island for instance, one of the smallest, if not the smallest, in the Federation of the Northern States, she had done her duty during the present war, having cheerfully and more readily supplied the demands made upon her by the Government, than larger States in proportion supplied. Now, taking Rhode Island, taking Guernsey and Jersey, and even the Isle of Man, what did they find? There were none harmed. And if Prince Edward Island agreed to join the other Provinces, she would internally become a part of a great nation, instead of being isolated as at present. The suggestion His Grace the Duke of Newcastle had made in the Despatch, was merely an initiatory one, and he believed that the question should be thoroughly understood by every member of the House, and it would, perhaps, be as well, therefore, to let the matter lie over for that purpose. He, for one, felt strongly upon the question of the Union, provided it could be arranged and carried out in a proper form. Looking at what was going on in America at the present time, and what the painful results were likely to be, and knowing that a great railway was in course of construction, which would be the great commercial highway to China, Japan, Vancouver's Island, and all the shores and Islands of the Pacific passing through English territory, he believed, he was warranted in saying, such a state of things, if the Colonies all heartily joined together, that the inhabitants of the countries through which the railroad was proposed to be carried, would add very much to bring about a desirable result.

Hon Mr LONGWORTH heartily agreed to withdraw his resolution for the present; but it must not be implied, in doing so, that he wished the Island to be joined to any other Colony, or to give up one single right of their local Legislature.

Hon the SPEAKER differed very much from the sentiments expressed by the hon. the leader of the Government. Prince Edward Island, he thought, should have an opinion of its own, and a fair opportunity of expressing such an opinion. Rhode Island had been alluded to; and here the question arose with regard to their union to Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia,—was it to be a Federal or

Legislative one? Could they, as Rhode Island did, manage their own affairs, have their own Legislature, and raise their own taxes, he feared not; and, until he saw his way clear before him, he would not sell his birth-right for a mess of pottage. Some stress had been laid in reference to the Isles of Man, Jersey and Guernsey, but each of those Islands were held under Norman federal rights, and possessed, even to this day, peculiar privileges. They were not annexed, nor federated, or confederated, but retained their own rights; and this should be an example to Prince Edward Island.

Hon Col GRAY said that he must have been misunderstood; he never, for a single moment, insinuated that either Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man were in a better position than that now occupied by Prince Edward Island. Neither of them were clear, he believed, of a certain liability, in the respect of either debts or taxes; but the real question alluded to in the Despatch before them was not annexation, but union. At the present time they were combatting shadows; and it might be the most prudent course for the Colony not to take the initiative step on so important a question, until the pulse of the neighboring Colonies had been felt.

Hon Mr COLES was of opinion that it would have been much better if this important subject had been initiated by their own Government, instead of writing for an opinion to urge them on, from elsewhere. The question was of great importance to the Colony. It naturally arose to the minds of all parties (or should have arisen to their minds) the question, was the proposed combination to be of a Legislative or a Federal character? He, for one, thought that it would be much better for all parties, and that the prosperity of the whole Colonies would be advanced, if Prince Edward Island were admitted into a union like that of the United States. Besides, it should be remembered that the Colonies were not fairly represented—in fact, he might say, with some degree of truth, that they were not represented at all in the Imperial Parliament, or at the office of the Home Government. An offer had been made by the other Colonies, which should be accepted by the inhabitants of Prince Edward Island. The Island, however, was not, after all that had been said about it, quite a "sleepy hollow," for it had initiated the practicability of carrying out the principle of many important measures—not the least of which was the Bill for the election of a Legislative Council. If the resolution or suggestion contained in the Despatch were agreed to, they would, no doubt, have to send delegates from here to meet a delegation from the other Colonies; and, notwithstanding the expense that might be incurred, he believed, that it would be for the benefit of the Island. For, by joining this proposed union, Prince Edward Island, he believed, would be put above the baneful influence of the Canards and other large proprietors. The Canards had no influence in other Colonies, and a consultation of delegates could be of no disadvantage to Prince Edward Island. Their delegates need not bind themselves, nor allow themselves to be swamped; but upon what was termed the "log-rolling principle," might make their own terms.

Hon COL. SECRETARY believed that Prince Edward Island would follow in the wake of the other Colonies, but it was not for them to take the initiative. There could be no doubt but that, sooner or later, a great empire, under the protection of the British flag, would be formed at the northern extremity of this great continent, stretching from sea to sea; but, under present circumstances, he believed, that it would be far better, before any action was taken, that the propositions from the other Colonies, respecting the proposed federation or annexation, should be more fully developed, and that propositions, upon the subject should be waited for from the other Colonies.

Hon Mr McAULAY said a great deal of money had been raised in railway speculations by the other Colonies—they were invited to join,—and if Prince Edward Island joined with them, there could be no doubt that the proposed confederation would inevitably be swamped with the weight