

infringed upon." That was also the opinion of Brown when he said, on February 8th, 1865 : "We have here a people composed of two distinct races, speaking different languages, whose religious, social, municipal, and educational institutions are totally different ; among whom sectional enmities were so bitter that all government was rendered practically impossible for a number of years ; whose constitution is so unjust from the point of view of one section that it justifies resort to any means to remedy it. We are endeavoring to settle forever differences scarcely less important than those which have torn the neighboring republic and which to-day expose her to all the horrors of civil war." Further on, with real conviction, he added : " So, when it will be given to us to see the measure actually passed, justice done to the two provinces, everybody placed on a footing of equality, local interest left to the control of each locality and local expenses defrayed by each, will there not result to everybody a feeling of security and stability that we have not known for a long time and which we would never have been able to enjoy under present conditions."

To these high considerations in favor of Confederation, M. A. A. Dorion made the following objection : "How can we hope that lower-Canada can have any great confidence in the general government which will wield such immense power over the destinies of this province ? Experience shows that majorities are always aggressive and inclined to be tyrannical, and it cannot be otherwise in this case. I greatly fear that the day this confederation is adopted will be a fatal day for Canada."

M. J. H. Perreault also predicted trouble : " we will find ourselves completely at the mercy of a hostile majority. It can oppress us, assimilate our laws, suspend our judges, arm the military against us, and send us to the scaffold or into exile when it wished, despite our protestations and those of the French-Canadian minority of the federal parliament."

M. Taschereau, later chief justice of the supreme court, closed his speech on this great question in the following words : " You will soon see that this confederation will be the ruin of our institutions. Our descendants, instead of being grateful to us for what we are doing to-day will say that we were greatly mistaken and that we erred fatally when we imposed upon them this fatal act." M. Joly, member for Lotbinière, feared that there was not enough