

suspensions, and heartburnings, springing out of a sense of injustice and wrong, must long prevent the harmonious working of the new state of things, if it does not cause it speedily to end in disruption and disaster. But Mr. Speaker, the House has been told, I think, by the honourable member from West Toronto, that Nova Scotia has no right to bring this story of her admitted grievances here, because in all this, it is assumed that she can have no complaint against Canada. The wrongs she has suffered, we are told, were wrongs inflicted by her own people or by the Parliament of England, and that Canada is not to blame for them, and ought not to be bored with their rehearsal in this place. Sir, I cannot consent to allow this view of the case to be accepted by the House without contradiction. I hold, sir, that for all this story of wrong and oppression the statesmen of Canada are chiefly, if not wholly to blame; for who that knows the circumstances, but must admit that but for the patronage of the Dominion about to be established, that was placed by the statesmen of Canada at the disposal of their co-workers in Nova Scotia, the Confederation scheme never could have been carried in that Province. Sir, there are at this moment occupying seats in the Senate of the Dominion, three gentlemen, formerly members of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, whose sudden conversion and subsequent promotion to that post of honour, justifies the strongest suspicion as to the means used to procure their change of opinion. Another gentleman, who formerly was a member of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia, and apparently an earnest Anti-Confederate, also suddenly changed his base and gave in his adhesion to the cause he formerly opposed, and to-day he not only is a member of the Senate, but he also holds a departmental place in the Privy Council with large endowments. Now, I do not say that these individuals were all bought like so many sheep in the shambles; or that they sold their votes for places and distinctions that ought to belong to honourable men. It would be wrong to say this, because that might be a breach of Parliamentary privilege. But I do say, that from being apparently earnest Anti-Confederates, they, without the occurrence of any new phase of the political position to warrant the change, suddenly became the zealous promoters of that scheme. It would be wrong to say that these individuals, who are "all honourable men," were bribed like so many venal voters at a hustings booth; I only say, that the cause of

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Confederation got their votes and they got the Senatorships; and the members of this House, learning these facts, can draw their own inferences. It may be, Mr. Speaker, that in all this these parties were actuated by a spirit of the purest patriotism; but the House will at least perceive, that it is a patriotism that pays remarkably well. So much for Canadian influence in the Nova Scotian Legislature. And for what took place at the other side of the water, the complaint of Nova Scotia's people does not lie against her own politicians and the British Government, solely; for the Government and Parliament of England never would have acted so precipitately as they did, had not three Colonial Cabinets conspired, by misrepresentations, to trick and deceive them; and only one of the three was the Cabinet of Nova Scotia. Is it to be wondered at, Mr. Speaker, after this brief review of a few of the facts, that the people of Nova Scotia should feel indignant at the manner in which they have been treated, and that they should be determined to punish at the hustings, these men among themselves who so deeply wronged and insulted them. The honourable member from Lambton has hinted that it is in vain for us to enter on the discussion of this question now, because the Act of which we complain is a thing of the past and cannot be recalled; and that this being the case, we should rather set ourselves to the consideration of the new duties, that the new condition of things impose on us. The same argument was used in Nova Scotia previous to the elections, by Confederates who tried to persuade the people, that as the Act was completed and past recall, there was no object but revenge to be gained by voting against the men who enacted it. What would be thought of a homicide in the criminal's dock, pleading in mitigation of punishment that the life of his victim was past recall, and that it would be only gratifying an unchristian spirit of revenge to punish him for his crime. Fancy such an one addressing the judge, and saying: "May it please your lordship, it is true, I committed this offence against the laws of God and man, but the life I destroyed is now a thing of the past, and cannot be recalled; you may punish me, but that cannot reanimate again with life the mouldering clay, or bring back to the circle of friendship and duty that cold clod that yesterday was my fellow creature." Sir, it may be only too true that the political independence, the political life, of Nova Scotia, is a thing of the past; but even if this were so, the first duty of every Nova Scotian