

the end, we cannot see a single clause indicating statesmanlike vigour and breadth of view. It is difficult to understand how any set of men, possessed of ordinary intelligence, can presume to approach Her Majesty and her Government, with a document exhibiting throughout such extraordinary ignorance of the true principles on which our constitution is based. If the doctrines enunciated were correct, Nova Scotia could not be merely a colonial dependency, for the power of the Colonial Legislature and of the Imperial Parliament to change our constitution, and to pass the Act of Union, is denied to all intents and purposes. More than that, no measure of any importance touching our constitution: a Franchise Act for instance, could become law, without having been first submitted to the people, according to the principle laid down by these wonderful logicians and constitutionalists. A measure passed by the Colonial and Imperial Parliaments, and warmly approved by our Most Gracious Sovereign, is declared to be "a fraud and imposition" upon the people of this country. It is broadly asserted that our rights and interests have been disregarded by the Act of Union. From the very commencement of this great controversy similar statements have been made, but on no occasion has a better scheme of Union been brought forward or the disadvantages of the present measure clearly and specifically stated.

Mr. Wilkins has raked up from the archives of the Province, a musty old Charter given to Lord Cornwallis more than a century ago, and has declared that it is irrevocable. It is needless to tell any person at all conversant with our political history, that the constitution of this country has been changed time and again during the past century by the British Government, and by the Legislature of this Province. The old Charter has long since become a dead letter, fortunately for the rights and privileges of the people of this country. We now enjoy Responsible Government, by which the people, through their representatives, manage and direct the affairs of the country. If we should enforce that musty charter of former times we would have to go back to the old Council with all its abuses. If it be urged that the people have been deprived of their rights, and that their constitution has been destroyed by the Act of Union, then it can be forcibly replied that their constitutional privileges have only been enlarged. Our sphere of action has been widely extended by the union with our Sister Colonies on this Continent. We have a representation in the General Parliament, based on the population of the Province—the only basis on which a representation in America can properly rest—and can exercise much influence and power. References have been made time and again to the old Stamp Act that excited the Old Colonies so deeply, and an analogy has been drawn between it and the measure uniting the Provinces. When we see men of high ability like the Attorney General constantly drawing this analogy, no one need be surprised that the people have been so egregiously deceived in.