

jected by the House last Session, and I did not know whether they would be willing to reconsider the subject, but that I thought they might consent, after the Despatches were submitted, to have a Committee appointed (a majority of whom was to be our friends) to consider them, and the Committee might in their Report suggest objections to the Quebec Scheme, and propose another Conference of all the Provinces, or a Conference of the Lower Colonies, whose interests are homogenous; but I told him I would not consent to this until I had an opportunity of seeing our friends, such of them as I could see in Westmorland, as well as some of them at Saint John on my way home. I told him that the conversation was to be considered confidential, and if my friends did not approve of it, that all that was said was to be considered as not said. We also discussed the question as to whether it had better be a Joint Committee of both Houses, or separate Committees of each. He told me at one of our interviews that he thought he would go to Canada. When I saw him again, I think the next day, I asked him if he had determined to go to Canada; he replied that he had, and asked me what objections I had to the Quebec Scheme, and said that he would try and ascertain, when there, what modifications they would make. He rose and took the Journals of 1865, containing the Scheme, and I proceeded to enumerate the following as some of the objections, viz:—

1. Representation by population.
2. That each Province should have an equal number of Legislative Councillors.
3. That the Lower Provinces should be exempt from taxation for the Canals of Upper Canada, and for the purchase money and other expenditures connected with the North West Territory.
4. That the Revenues collected in the different Provinces should be for the benefit of each Province when collected, except a certain amount to be given for the support of the General Government.

He acknowledged that the propositions were reasonable, and said that he thought Canada would coincide in them all, except representation by population. I distinctly told him that if I went into political oblivion for ever, I would never recognize that principle unless it was neutralized in some way, and that I regarded the Quebec Scheme as utterly ruinous to our country. I further stated to him, that I would never consent to Union, and then trust to luck as to what kind of Union we were to get; that whether it was good or bad depended upon the terms and conditions of it, and that before I would go for it, I must know what they were to be. I also told him that I would never consent, and I was satisfied our friends would not, to an Address to Her Majesty to carry out Union without reference to the people; that the British Government had committed themselves to the Quebec Scheme, and to do this would be equivalent to the adoption of that Scheme.

I told His Excellency that I should tell my colleagues in the Government all that took place between us, and I did so most fully, and they approved of what I had said and done.

I left for Westmorland and he left for Canada. I saw several of our friends at Saint John as well as in Westmorland, and told them exactly what had passed between His Excellency and myself, as they will recollect, and they seemed to be willing that a Committee should be appointed.

The Council met at Fredericton about the third of March. His Excellency in the meantime had returned from Canada. He told me that he had seen Lord Monck and some of the Members of the Canadian Government, and he said he thought they would be willing to make concessions, but did not state distinctly how far they would go. I told him I had seen several of our friends, and they seemed willing to adopt the course suggested, namely, to appoint a Committee to consider the Despatches when they were submitted, and this was agreed upon as the course to be adopted. We had a good deal of discussion as to how the subject should be referred to in the Speech. I objected to any reference being made in the Speech which would commit us to Union in any way. We finally agreed upon the Speech and Answer. During all these discussions I communicated to my colleagues, as I always did, everything that passed between us.

Two or three days before the Legislature met I was at Government House, in the afternoon, and His Excellency said I would meet Mr. Mitchell at dinner that evening. I had previously been invited. I thought this somewhat strange, and my suspicions were aroused that he had sent for him, and I mentioned the fact to my colleagues, who participated in my suspicions and seemed much annoyed that such a thing should take place. I met Mr. Mitchell that evening at dinner. I had no conversation with him on the subject of Union;