

From the language of this Despatch it would be natural to infer that it related to some scheme for effecting an entire Legislative and Administrative Union of the British North American Provinces, which has not yet been made public, but words used in the concluding paragraph, taken in connection with various other circumstances, lead the Committee to conclude that it is intended to refer to the Resolutions in favor of a Federation of the various Provinces of *British North America*, agreed to by the Canadian Parliament at the last Session. These Resolutions have already been submitted to the people of *New Brunswick*, at the time and in the manner which the advocates of the scheme themselves selected. The Legislature was dissolved, and the people were enabled to pronounce their decision on this most important subject in the regular constitutional mode, and, after ample consideration, refused, by an overwhelming majority, to adopt the scheme; not because it was novel, as Mr. *Cardwell* has been led to suppose, but because they were unable to discover anything in it that gave promise of either moral or material advantage to the Empire or to themselves, or that afforded a prospect of improved administration or increased prosperity.

The spirit of loyalty which has always animated the people of *New Brunswick* and of which they have on many occasions given proof, is still as ardent as ever, and whenever it becomes necessary they are prepared to place all their means and resources at the absolute disposal of the Imperial Government, but they cannot believe that the contemplated Confederation would either increase their strength or render it more available.

A large majority of the people of this Province are opposed to any closer political connection with *Canada* than that afforded by the tie of a common allegiance to the British Crown, and consider that such a Union would have a decided tendency to weaken that dependence on the British Empire which they so highly prize, and would lead to the neglect and injury of their local interests: in which opinion the Committee believe that the people of the other Maritime Provinces fully concur, but even those who desire a union must fail to discover in the Resolutions adopted at *Quebec* any provision whatever for the accomplishment of a fusion, which, in the words of Mr. *Cardwell's* Despatch, would unite in one Government all the British North American Provinces, and form a Province uniting in itself all the population and all the resources of the whole.

The Committee of course cannot suppose that the British Government share the ignorance with regard to the history and character of the Federal scheme which appears to prevail among the British public, and which induces the *Times* newspaper, of the 20th June, to observe that "the two *Canadas* have put aside their ancient jealousies and are ready to meet in a common Legislature," in apparent forgetfulness of the fact that they have so met for the last five and twenty years, and very probably without any consciousness on the part of the writer of the article that the jealousies between the *Canadas*, said to have been put aside, are avowedly the cause of the late proposal, and that its authors, in the event of its failure, are pledged to restore to *Upper* and *Lower Canada* a great measure of the local independence surrendered by them in 1840.

The Resolutions agreed to by the leading Canadian politicians in the month of June, 1864, as the basis of the formation of the existing Cabinet, and adopted solely under the pressure of local exigencies contain the statement that "on consideration of the steps most advisable for the final settlement of *sectional difficulties*, the remedy must be sought in the adoption of the Federal principle," and provide that if such negotiations were unsuccessful, they would be "prepared to pledge themselves to legislation during the next session of Parliament, for the purpose of remedying existing difficulties, by introducing the Federal principle for *Canada* alone."

It is perfectly clear that the "existing difficulties" were the motive and groundwork of the scheme, and that the Federal union was only sought as a means of separating the *Canadas*, a separation which the Canadian Government are pledged in all events immediately to effect, a fact which perhaps sufficiently accounts for the eagerness for which they seek to force its immediate adoption upon unwilling communities, for they are well aware that did the plan avowedly contemplate only the separation of the *Canadas*, it would be impossible, even speciously, to present it to the Imperial Government as in any manner a scheme of union.

Mr. *Cardwell* is perfectly right in supposing that the views and wishes of *Great Britain* are entitled to great weight, and they will ever be received with respectful attention