

unfeeling manner than any gentleman was ever expelled from the Cabinet of this country. And for what? I have shown that a gentleman was brought into the Government who never had the honour of a seat in this House, who had not fought their battles, and was of no greater ability than the gentleman who was expelled. I have shown that by a raid on the treasury of Canada, \$12,000 a year was taken to divide among this gentleman and his associates, of whom his colleague was one. I have said that one of the principles propounded by the present Prime Minister, and on which he takes his stand—one of those great principles which the hon. the Postmaster General says they have distinguished themselves by adhering to—was the entire separation between the general and local Governments. I hold in my hand an extract from a speech delivered by the hon. the First Minister in April, 1871, in the House of Commons. He said:—

"It has been frequently asserted that there is a close connection between this (Sir John's) Government and the Governments of the Local Legislatures. It is desirable that there should be no connexion whatever between the central and local Governments, and I feel it my duty to bring this principle before the House."

This is one of the principles upon which the hon. gentleman takes his stand. The hon. member for South Bruce (Mr. Blake) also said:—

"The position of the Reform party in regard to the Federal Government is that they argued against alliance, as well as hostility. Their position is that the Local Government should be perfectly independent of the Central Government, and should neither be entangled by alliance or embarrassed by hostility. The independence of each of the Provinces is necessary for the working of the Federal system."

I will show the House how those hon. gentlemen have carried that out in practice. I will accept the challenge of the hon. the Premier to point to a single case in which the General Government have ever used their power for the purpose of assisting in carrying elections. The present hon. Minister of Militia was floated to the surface on the great anti-Confederation wave that swept over Nova Scotia in 1867. Down

to that time that hon. gentleman had been a hearty, zealous and enthusiastic supporter of the party with which I had the honour of being connected. In all the struggles with what were called the old Reformers of Nova Scotia, Mr. Young, Mr. Howe and others, there was no more zealous opponent of that party and those gentlemen than the present hon. Minister of Militia; and all the qualification for admission into the Reform party he can claim is that on the great question of the union of these Provinces, he abandoned the party with which he had always been associated to oppose Union and to which he had given a most determined and unflinching opposition. Before I resume my seat I shall probably be able to show that the same animus that induced the hon. gentleman to give his hostility to Confederation still exists in his bosom, and at no distant day found expression in no measured terms. I assumed a very considerable responsibility in carrying the question of the union of the Provinces so far as Nova Scotia was concerned. The hon. member for South Bruce (Mr. Blake), in this House, and the hon. the Minister of the Interior, out of the House, and the *Globe*, assailed me in bitter, and I might almost say vindictive, terms, for the mode by which I gave my assistance to that great party-combination in Canada, which was formed for the purpose of carrying the union of the Provinces. The great charge they brought against me was, that I had carried that measure without a reference to the people at the polls. The hon. the Minister of the Interior—in the collection of ministerial speeches made during last Summer, and for publishing them in their present form I tender him and the hon. gentlemen opposite my hearty thanks, because the volume would be exceedingly convenient in dealing with public questions. Under the heading of "Extrayal of Nova Scotia," the hon. gentleman holds me up to public execration for having carried the union of the Province of Nova Scotia with the other Provinces without a reference to the people at the polls. The hon. gentleman knows, or ought to know, that the measure was