

and the average rate of increase for ten years is 16 7-10, while the increase of Nova Scotia in the same period was 19 9-10, so that if those gentlemen will have a little patience, our population will become sufficiently numerous.

It seems, however, the determination of the Prov. Secretary, that we shall not remain in our present happy and prosperous condition, that nothing short of a Union with some other province will satisfy him. When last year he introduced his resolution for a convention to consider the Union of the Maritime provinces, but little importance was attached to it, as it was not likely to lead to any practical result; but when it became known that the convention had arranged a Union of the whole British North American Colonies, and when the terms of the proposed Union were made public, the province was convulsed from centre to circumference; men at once set about petitioning this Legislature, and but for the opinion which got abroad that the Delegates had abandoned the scheme, your table would have been covered with petitions. So strong was public opinion found to be against the Quebec arrangement, that the Pro. Secretary has not had the courage and the manliness to carry it out, although bound in all faith to the other Provinces to make the attempt. When I consider the position of our delegates, I am reminded of the fable of the fellows who sold a "bearskin" before they had killed the bear, which so happily illustrates the case that I shall trouble the House with it.

Five fellows, needing funds and bold,

A bearskin to a furrier sold,
Of which the bear was living still,
But which they presently would kill—
At least they said they would.

And if their word was good,
It was a king of bears—an *Ursa Major*
The fattest bear beneath the sun.

The skin the chaps would wager,
Was cheap at double cost;

'Twould make one laugh at frost—
And make two robes as well as one.

(In their accounts 'twas theirs
But in his own the bears.)

By bargain struck upon the skin
Three months at most must bring it in,
Forth went the *five*. More easy found than
got.

The bear came growling at them on the
trot,

Behold our dealers all confounded.

As if by thunderbolt astounded!

Their bargain vanished suddenly in air;

For who could plead his interest with a
bear?

Four of the friends sprung up a tree:

The other, cold as ice could be,

Fell on his face, feigned death,

And closely held his breath,—

He having somewhere heard it said

The bear ne'er preys upon the dead.

Sir Bear, sad blockhead, was deceived—

The prostrate man a corpse believed;

But, half suspecting some deceit,

He feels and snuffs from head to feet,
And in the nostrils blows.

The body's surely dead, he thinks
I'll leave it for it stinks;

And off into the woods he goes.

The other dealers from their tree

Descending cautiously, to see

Their comrade lying in the dirt,

Consoling, says it is a wonder

That, by the monster forced asunder,

Were—after all—more scared than hurt,

But, addeth they, what of the creature's skin?

He held his muzzle very near;

What did he whisper in your ear?

He gave this caution,—“Never dare

Again to sell the skin of bear

Its owner has not ceased to wear.”

Now, our dealers not finding Sir Bear disposed to quietly part with his skin, have determined to get him into a trap. They seek by this resolution on the table for another convention to entrap Nova Scotia into the scheme as arranged at Quebec. My hon. friend from Richmond is correct in stating that they have no other object in view, and I shall ask the House to follow me while I consider the constitution prepared for us at that Quebec conference.

We are told by the Provincial Secretary of the government they proposed to constitute a Federation of British North America.—It appears to me that in the very outset, in the second resolution of this report, they have given the evidence which shows that this Federal Union cannot be stable under the circumstances. They allude there to the “*diversity of the interests of the several Provinces*.”

The fact that the interests of the Provinces are so diversified that each has its own interests, and its centre of interest within itself—precludes the possibility of a Federal Union being formed to work harmoniously. Under present regulations, our separate interests are not brought into antagonism—why then should we bring about a change which will make the interests of the several Provinces clash and destroy that harmony of feeling that is existing among these Colonies? The hon. member for South Colchester, read to you from Judge Story, that when Provinces unite they make mutual sacrifices and concessions in order to obtain some great purpose. One purpose for which they would make that sacrifice would be, that they might obtain mutual aid. In this case there would not be that influence at work in order to induce us to consent to a sacrifice of our interests—an attack upon one is under present regulation an attack upon all—besides we have now the protection of England—we have the command of her armies. She has told us that her honour demands that she