

men of the contending parties, and without reference to local party issues. The discussion elicited, however—and more particularly in the Prince Edward Island Legislature—a strong feeling of dissatisfaction at the proposal for a *Legislative Union*; but still the Legislature of the Island felt that they could not honourably keep aloof from the proposed Conference, and on the 18th of April passed, but not without a division, the following resolution, which is identical with the resolutions, aiming at the same object, passed in the Legislatures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick:—

“RESOLVED, That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be authorized to appoint Delegates (not to exceed five), to confer with Delegates who may be appointed by the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, for the purpose of discussing the expediency of a Union of the three Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, under one Government and Legislature, the report of the said Delegates to be laid before the Legislature of this Colony, before any further action shall be taken in regard to the proposed question.”

In conformity with the resolutions referred to, Delegates were appointed by the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Canada was at this time, without previous concert with the Maritime Provinces, engaged in considering the necessity of a change in its constitution, so as to reconcile, if possible, the conflicting interests of the Eastern and Western Divisions of the Province; and it was deemed an appropriate time to bring the question of Colonial Union generally, which would embrace Canada, under the notice of the proposed Conference. With this view the Canadian Government solicited permission to be present by Delegation at the Conference. Their request was most cordially complied with; and on the 1st September, the whole of the Delegates met according to previous arrangement, at Charlottetown.