

who looks back at the past after a century has passed away, either doubt the constitutional power of the middle branch to interfere, or the expediency of the course they pursued. History has pronounced its approval of the course the lords pursued, which has advanced constitutional rights, has tended to promote and extend civil liberty, and resulted in erecting upon our borders a powerful nation, which has relieved the overcrowded countries of Europe, of their surplus populations, and affords a home to millions. As I before stated, instances of the proper exercise of the Legislative functions of the middle Branch might be multiplied indefinitely were it necessary; and I would recommend these gentlemen who condemn our conduct, undervalue our influence, decry our position or desire to restrain our powers,—to refer to the history of constitutional countries, and study them before they assert that there is no parallel to the powers here assumed. We are told we must be swept away; that the majority are “effete, antiquated politicians,” representing no one but ourselves, and having no regard for the people's interests, desirous only to gratify our ambition, our selfishness, and our interests. Mr. Smith eulogized the conduct of the hon. Mr. Hazen, and the other four gentlemen who constitute the minority. I sit because they generally vote to sustain his Government that he did this, or is it improbable that the keen, shrewd, Mr. Smith, and the astute Mr. Hazen did not point out to the rest of the minority the fact, that five men, at least, on their side of the House, were sure of seats at Ottawa if the scheme succeeded, as it was stipulated therein, that half should be on each side of politics. Does Mr. Smith not know, and has he not often repeated the fact, that without the check, which the Upper Branch has been, to hasty and reckless Legislation in the Lower House, our Statute Book would have been filled with injudicious and unwise Statutes; his ire, excited against the Council last winter has not yet subsided, and when almost every measure of that imbecile and servile Government which has just passed away, were rejected, and they met with the condemnation of the Country? I answer, No! and the people of the Provinces confirm it. Did the people want the Post Office Department abolished? Did they want an irredeemable paper currency foisted upon the country, without proper guards, securities, and checks, such as the original mover, Mr. Wilnot, had provided? Did the people of the North condemn us for the rejection of the Buoy, Beacon, Lights, and Seamen's Hospital Bill, and which, while it taxes the Ports of the North largely in excess of those in other sections, and lets Charlotte go free, yet would appropriate our

funds to the maintenance of their seamen, and to supply deficiencies in those other more favored Ports? Did the people of St. John condemn us for the rejection of their Water Bill, and for which Mr. Hazen belabored this Council repeatedly, a Bill which, while it taxes the stock in trade of the merchant, and the implements and stock of the manufacturer, yet permitted the valuable library of a lawyer, and the costly furniture of the millionaire or parvenue to escape? I answer, No! Yet these are only a few of the Bills we rejected last Session. Our conduct met with the approval of the country, and when I have heard, as I often have, the expressions from the people and seen it in the Press, “thank God, we have a Legislative Council,” it has been a satisfaction to me to believe that, if we did excite the enmity of the Government, and at times the ire of the Lower Branch, we at least found satisfaction in knowing that our course generally met the approval of the people. When Mr. Smith, by having Hon. Mr. Hazen and the other four gentlemen who voted in the minority with him, as being the only true exponents of public sentiment in this House, he has practically challenged criticism, and the gage of the public verdict, which he has thrown down. Of the minority, five, but one of them has ever represented a constituency, and would not care to risk a trial. Of the majority, some of them have been representatives of the people, and, I believe, all of them returned more than once, while the others are gentlemen of quite as great claims to the confidence of the country as the minority, and certainly not more deficient in ability. Mr. Smith may inspire and submit Resolutions in the Lower Branch, to sweep us off; he may try to excite feelings against us, and advocate a principle he himself does not believe in, of making the Council elective, but I would have him to know, that this sacrificing principle to the passion or humor of the hour, will have no weight with the members of this House who would not swerve from duty, either at the cajolery or the threats of his imbecile Gov't. For myself, I have that position before the people of my Country, that will secure my return here, should I desire it. Individually, his threat of the Elective principle has no force with me, and I wish him and his confederates to understand that while no inducements which he might offer could persuade, no threats which he may use can force me to a servile following in the footsteps of the Lower House. I am a Constitutional man; I desire to maintain constitutional principles, and notwithstanding the assertions, insinuations, and insinuations to the contrary, I have pursued a constitutional course. I desire to maintain the rights as well of the one Branch as the other; and while I will not be