

the western half of it to the uses of the Dominion. You know that our votes, assuming that they would prove faithful, number 38, while those of the other Provinces number 116. Yet, with full knowledge of these facts you deliberately proposed and passed an Act in concert—some may think in collusion—with the Federal authorities, to deprive the people of this Province of the opportunity of even protesting against the intended spoliation! In my judgment you have in this matter committed the gravest breach of trust ever proved against a public man in this country. Lord Ashburton was accused of surrendering a large portion of the Province of Quebec to the State of Maine corruptly. His connection with a certain family largely interested in the timber lands of that State gave some countenance to the accusation. At all events we know that he proved himself a weak and credulous, if not a faithless, negotiator. But Lord Ashburton had not been specially selected by the people of Quebec to defend their rights. You were taken from the Bench by a political party that proclaimed itself opposed to the policy of compromise, or even of friendly negotiation with the general government. Mr. Blake signalized the beginning of his official career by abruptly breaking off negotiations with the Dominion authorities in this very matter of boundaries, under the pretence of apprehended danger to the interests of Ontario. Every one expected that "No surrender" of our territorial rights would now be the cry of that Party which he had engineered into office, and which you were appointed to keep in office. But in this, as in every other instance, profession and practice have sadly belied one another. We are now threatened with the expropriation of a large part of the Province—enough to constitute two or three kingdoms of European proportions—and nothing will avert the disaster unless public opinion, indignant and resentful, compels you to suspend your expropriating Act and to rescind your arbitration. I have met so many intelligent persons, even among members of the Legislature that assented to your bill, who entirely misapprehended its purport and object, that I am not surprised at the silence of the press nor at the apparent apathy of the public in the presence of so grave a peril. The general history, and some of the special facts of the question, which you took no pains to communicate, must be understood before the reader of your Act can fully comprehend its unconstitutional character, or perceive its dangerous concessions. If I now formally charge you with incivism in your official

treatment of the boundary question, and specify the particulars, you must do me the justice to admit that it is not mere political carping, or, in the polite language of your chief organist, "henpecking" on my part. As soon as I became aware that you had agreed to submit the matter to arbitration, I published my report or memorandum, made at the request of the Ontario Government, in March, 1872. The first time I had the honour to meet you on a public platform since the passing of your Act, I denounced it, and specified the grounds of my objection. You prudently remained silent, but the interest then manifested, even among supporters of your Government, in that one-sided discussion, convinces me that a more detailed and formal statement of the case against you, may not be unacceptable to the public.

1. I object to the recital in the preamble of your Act. You pretend that the Imperial Act of 1871, entitled "an Act respecting the establishment of Provinces in the Dominion of Canada," which was passed, as we all know, for the purpose of confirming the Manitoba and Rupert's Land Acts (the constitutional power of the Dominion Parliament to pass them having been doubted), gives authority to the Dominion Parliament to "alter the limits" of the old Provinces! You not only assume that this Act, in spite of its title, preamble, history, enacting clauses, &c., which limit its operation to new Provinces, may be extended to Ontario, but that the "consent" of the Local Legislature, without which no alteration of limits or diminution of territory can be made in the case of new provinces, may, in our case, be given in advance, and before the extent, of the alteration or diminution is known! In other words, it is a case of "shut your eyes, open your mouth, and see what you may get," with this grandmotherly addition, that the credulous youngster must first agree that if all the anagarstickes find their way into his big brother's mouth he is not to cry! Such a proposal would be repudiated even in a four-year-old nursery.

2. But admitting for a moment that the 3rd section of the Act of 1871 can be wrested from its place, and extended to the original provinces, whose boundaries have been established as matter of legal description for more than a hundred years, it would not cover your case. The words of that section are—"The Parliament of Canada may from time to time, with the consent of the Legislature, &c., increase, diminish or otherwise alter the limits of such Province." No one will pretend that a majority of the arbi-