

provide in the Act consenting to the Union." There was common fairness in that arrangement, but that has been abandoned, and the very opposite is now being attempted by the Nova Scotia Government, for by the present plan of procedure, the self-constituted delegates, in conjunction with the Imperial Government, are to frame the whole scheme, as to the Maritime Provinces, and which is to be perfected by an Imperial Act, without any reference or submission concerning any part of it, first or last, either to the people of the Provinces or their legislatures; thereby destroying nearly all their existing civil rights and institutions, without affording either of them, though so deeply interested, the opportunity of deliberating on the subject, and expressing in any manner their sentiments concerning it. Can the government and parliament of an Empire so pre-eminently distinguished for its *justice, magnanimity, and honour*, ever consent to exhibit such a *contrariety* to its own free and equitable laws and institutions, and modes of administering the principles of its just and liberal constitution? It may well be hoped and expected that no such violation of natural and constitutional right will be committed; and that whatever scheme of Union may be framed, *before any further Imperial action thereon, the opportunity will be afforded to the people of Nova Scotia of electing representatives for a parliament*, in which any prepared scheme of Union may be fully considered and decided on. This will be but *common justice*, and in full accordance with *Imperial constitutional principles and precedents*, and is all that is now desired and asked by the loyal people of Nova Scotia. The present illiberal and unjust course of procedure, as regards this Province, if successful, would most assuredly weaken, if not destroy, to a very great extent, that feeling of loyal attachment to the parent government and countries, which has all along, and more especially for many late years, so universally and happily prevailed. It would lay the foundation of *distrust and dissatisfaction*, or even keen resentment, and destroy confidence regarding that Government; and on the passing of any measure by the Union Parliament felt to be unjust, and injurious to the interests of the Province, that first dissatisfaction would soon advance to decided aversion, which if not manifested in open acts of hostility, would produce in the Union, bitter and enduring strifes. Surely the whole people of Nova Scotia, whose liberties and all the civil rights they possess and hold dear, are involved in the plan, are the persons who ought to be consulted