

these Provinces. There may be gentlemen here who remember what took place when the Quebec scheme was brought before the Parliament of Canada, and when some gentleman asked that it should be submitted to the people for their approval. The Hon. Mr. Brown, who then occupied a prominent position in the Government and Legislature of this country, if I recollect aright, in his place in Parliament, conceded the constitutional right to have it so submitted, if any doubt existed as to the opinions of the people, but, because no doubt did exist that an overwhelming majority would be returned in favour of it, he considered it impolitic to put the country to the expense of a general election to make a certainty more certain. But in the Province of Nova Scotia my honourable friend pursued a different course. He knew that a large body of the people were opposed to the Union. He himself declared it impracticable in 1865, and yet he persisted, contrary to the views of other statesmen, to force it upon an unwilling people. The honourable member says that the statesmen and people of England regarded this Union as a necessary condition of their continuance to defend this country. If so their speeches and public press did not express their views. What did Mr. Gladstone say in his speech upon the Bill to guarantee the money necessary for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway? Speaking of the defence of the Colonies he said that the liability of the Imperial Government for that purpose was very heavy indeed, and that it was the duty of the British Parliament in every way to get rid of it; and moreover that he regarded that road and this Confederation as the surest way to throw upon us the burden of our own defence. In this view he was supported by other statesmen, and several members of the leading press of England. We are told that it would be impossible for Nova Scotia to carry on her public works without raising her tariff, even if Confederation had not been accomplished. On this issue, also, I differ with my honourable friend. He knows well that our revenue, with the low tariff of ten per cent, has been steadily increasing for many years. That since 1852 it increased four-fold, and three-fold within the last ten years; and that seldom was there such a remarkable increase as during the last year. Assuming, therefore, that in future our progress would be proportionate to that of the past, what ground is there to apprehend any necessity to

raise our tariff? The honourable member asserts that the Parliament of Nova Scotia sanctioned the Union Act, but how? After we had intelligence that it had passed the second reading in the House of Commons of England, the honourable member from Guysboro' moved that it would be unjust to press it upon us without the consent of the people at the polls. That resolution was voted down by a House whose action was subsequently condemned by nearly the whole constituencies, and that was the negative assent to which my friend refers. We are told that this Union is such as to render an army unnecessary. If so, where the necessity of the measure promised in His Excellency's speech to provide, by a large expenditure of money, for military purposes. The honourable gentleman's statement that the Fenians and Annexationists of the Province were to be found in the ranks of the Anti-Unionists challenges a remark or two. I am not aware that there is one Fenian in Nova Scotia. Four years ago there was scarcely a disloyal person among our whole people, but I am not sure that there are not, now, thousands whose loyalty has been shaken by the arbitrary course pursued on the part of the Government, of which my honourable friend was a member. We received no assistance from Fenians, but it is now acknowledged, on all sides, that the Fenians, in their movements, contributed largely to the success of the Union party. One word about the Watkin story. My honourable friend undertakes to explain the misstatement, but as far as we are concerned it matters little what the intention of Mr. Watkin was,—whether it was a wilful perversion of the truth or not. The fact is that the misstatement was made and largely contributed to deceive the British Parliament and people. At this late hour of the night it would be trespassing upon the patience of the House to say more than this, and, when I came in, I did not intend to say so much; but I would be doing very great injustice to the people who sent me here, and stultifying myself, if I should rejoice, as this address asks me to do, at the success of a course of procedure which I know to be as repugnant to the wishes and feelings of the vast majority of the people of Nova Scotia, as I believe it to be injurious to their best interests.

The House adjourned at half past eleven o'clock, to meet again on Monday at three p.m.