

bear those ills we have than fly to others we know not of." Our position now is such that it becomes the duty of every public man to look the question fairly in the face, not in a party spirit with the object of making political stock out of it. It is time we made up our minds on this great question, as to the most beneficial course to be pursued, and having done so to stand or fall by those opinions.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I look at members who have pledged themselves.

Mr. BRECKEN.—The hon. member need not alarm himself about my inconsistency. I am not going to play with the question. I have pledged myself in common, I believe, with every hon. member of this House, not to commit the country to Confederation until the question is first submitted to the people at the polls. This pledge was most distinctly given, and I intend to keep it strictly.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—I understood the hon. member for Charlottetown.

Mr. BRECKEN.—I consider myself bound by a pledge to hand back to my constituents the power they entrusted me with undiminished. I do not feel myself precluded from discussing the question. For, if the present Government were to open negotiations with the Confederate Colonies, for the purpose of joining the Union—a course that would not very much surprise me—and obtain an offer on favorable terms, I should consider myself bound to vote against closing with that offer, and vote for referring the question to the people. I am surprised at the coolness of the hon. member, twitting me with inconsistency on the subject of Confederation. I ask him, what candidate did he support at the recent Election for Charlottetown,—my hon. colleague, a prominent supporter of Confederation, one of the celebrated "ninety-four." If, Sir, the hon. member and his party, well-knowing my colleague's views on that question, supported, and, with the assistance of some Confederates in the city, returned him to this House; but—strange and inconsistent—having placed him in that responsible position, they are afraid, I understand, to trust him as a member of the Executive Council, and resolutely refuse to appoint him to that position, although he has as resolutely insisted on his right to be there. Looking at the fact that he is one of the representatives of the capital of the Colony, and the only one who is in harmony with the Government, if there is anything of that element amongst them, which I much doubt, and considering that his constituents are the most wealthy, and certainly as intelligent as any in the Island, and that the greater portion of the mercantile, mechanical, and many other of our important interests are centred in the Town and Royalty, I do think my colleague, and those who sent him here, have a right to see him at the Executive Council Board. I understand the Government distrusts him on account of his Confederate opinions. It cannot be that his qualifications and position, in other respects, do not justify the appointment. Strange inconsistency, voting for a gentleman, returning him to this House, and still afraid to trust him as a member of the Government. But, Sir, for another piece of inconsistency on the part of the hon. member (Mr. Davies) and his party: How does he defend the appointment to the

office of Queen's Printer of a gentleman, one of the most ardent and talented (and on that account the most dangerous) advocates of Confederation. The hon. member designates Confederates as traitors. Is this his mode of punishing treachery by appointing the offender to the most lucrative office in the gift of the Government?

Hon. Mr. KELLY.—Mr. Davies was not appointed to the Executive until after Mr. Whelan was appointed Queen's Printer.

Mr. BRECKEN.—So much the worse for him, if such was the fact, for, by accepting a seat in the Government, he endorsed and approved of the Act; but the fact is Mr. Davies was a member of the Government at the time the appointment was made. The hon. member (Mr. Davies) jeers us for having a red-hot Unionist as Leader of the Opposition. It is within the knowledge of this hon. House, that that hon. member and the Government proposed to punish the Leader of the Opposition for his red-hot Confederate ideas, by making him first Commoner of the land, placing him in the Speaker's Chair. Strange method this, of marking the people's and the hon. member's disapprobation of the Leader of the Opposition's unsound and traitorous opinions on a question so vitally affecting our interests. The fact is, the Government is a mass of inconsistency; there are scarcely two of them who profess the same principles. Their Leader, who has not at present a seat in this House, always contended, (and no later than a few days ago, on the hustings in Charlottetown,) that the departmental system of Responsible Government was the only true system. How often have we, on this side of the House, been denounced as traitors for departing from it, by excluding office-holders from the Legislature. Now, we find this composite Government following the course laid down by the Conservatives, without having the honesty or candor to confess that they have seen the error of their way, or to assign reasons for changing their minds. No, Sir; rather than admit that it was honorable for their opponents to do anything right, they prefer pursuing a course which they have denounced as deceptive. They tell us that all political parties must make compromises. To a certain extent this is true,—but in matters of detail, there is a point at which compromises must stop. There are certain vital principles, which admit of no compromise, unless they wish to be, as this Government are, compromised from head to foot, without any distinctive principle, composed of a remnant of the old Liberal party, an infusion of Tenant Leaguers, and a few calling themselves moderate Conservatives. Look at some of their recent and most important appointments. What principle of Responsible Government was respected in the appointment of the Colonial Treasurer—a gentleman who, a few weeks ago, was rejected, at the Legislative Council Election, by an overwhelming majority; and, as to the appointment to the head of the Customs' Department, I cannot say what known rule of the Constitution has been invaded, as the framers of that system of government, wide and comprehensive as they made it, never contemplated such a case of unblushing political jobbery occurring; this was reserved for the ingenuity of Prince Edward Island Liberals. And bear in mind, Mr. Chairman, that the Government, by making this appointment, endorses its propriety collectively and individually, otherwise