

"With the public men of British North America it now rests to decide whether the vast tract of country which they inhabit shall be consolidated into a State combining within its area all the elements of national greatness, providing for the security of its component parts, and contributing to the strength and stability of the Empire; or whether the several provinces of which it is constituted shall remain in their present fragmentary condition, comparatively powerless of mutual aid, and incapable of taking their proper share of imperial responsibility."

And with these forcible, eloquent words from the lips of the Governor-General (Lord Lisgar) sounding in their ears, the members of the Assembly retire to their own chamber to deliberate what to do.

On the 3rd day of February, 1865, the resolutions adopted at Quebec were submitted to both Houses of Parliament. In the Legislative Council, the resolutions were agreed upon by a vote of 45 to 15. Of the 15 who voted against the resolution, 8 were from Quebec and 7 from Ontario. In the House of Assembly, the resolutions were adopted on a vote of 91 to 33, being opposed by 8 from the Province of Ontario and 25 from the Province of Quebec. And so the action of the Conference was approved after being sifted and criticized in Parliament from the 3rd of February to the 10th of March.

And now for the last stage—two past, and what about the third? The assent of the British Parliament is necessary. And so a delegation of five members of the Government of Canada is authorized to ask the desired assent:—John A. MacDonald, Georges E. Cartier, Wm. McDougall, W. H. Howland and Hector Langevin. There has been a sitting since the Conference at Quebec—from thirty-three to five, and the scene is changed again from modern Ottawa to historic London. From the 4th of December, 1866, to the 24th, the delegates conferred with the Colonial Office, and on the 12th day of February, 1867, Lord Carnarvon, Colonial Secretary, submitted to the House of Lords the Quebec Resolutions, modified in some minor respects, but substantially the same, under the title "An Act for the union of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the government thereof, and for purposes connected therewith." On the 19th of February, the second reading of the Bill was moved, in the course of which the Colonial Secretary gave an admirable exposition of its different sections, and in terms eloquent and terse summed up the purpose of the Bill, as follows:—

"We are laying the foundation of a great State, perhaps one which at a future day may even overshadow this country, but come what may, we shall rejoice that we have shown neither indifference to their wishes nor jealousy of their aspirations, but that honestly and sincerely to the utmost of our power and knowledge, we fostered their growth recognizing in it the conditions of our own greatness,