

• were held throughout the province, and Mr. Tilley, with all his popularity and prestige, was ignominiously defeated in his own stronghold, while, in the other counties, his party suffered severely, not a single member of the ill-fated conference being returned. The whole province emphatically pronounced an adverse opinion to the hopes and aspirations of the confederate party. Those opposed to the union had stated broad-cast that the inevitable fate of the Confederated provinces would be annexation to the United States, and that cry had the effect of sending to the side of the hostile camp, the descendants of the old Loyalists and their sympathizers. But notwithstanding his defeat, Mr. Tilley never lost faith in the ultimate success of the great measure. He felt sure that all the people needed to carry it was further enlightenment. They must be educated up to the scheme. The British Association, encouraged by ardent Liberals, continued to spread the Gospel of union, and the public men of the province lost no opportunity of keeping the matter before the people, while the press constantly discussed the question, pro and contra.

The new government came to power, pledged to defeat Confederation, and at its head were Albert J. Smith, afterwards Sir Albert J. Smith, and George L. Hatheway, in the Assembly. The "Antis" had a large and influential majority, but while the Lower House was anti-confederate in its views, the Upper House was entirely the other way. That body, led by the Hon. Peter Mitchell, presented an address to the Hon. Arthur, (afterwards Sir) Hamilton Gordon, son of the Earl of Aberdeen, Lieutenant-Governor of the province.

Mr. Mitchell, in those days, was a fiery and impetuous man of about forty-seven years of age. Energetic to a high degree, he usually carried things with a high hand, and had, in consequence, earned for himself the nickname of "Bismarck" Mitchell. The sobriquet clung to him for years. He had the majority of the Legislative council with him, and S. L. Tilley, called in derision by his enemies, the "forty-second member," (the House of Assembly consisted of 41 representatives,) was constantly at his elbow. It was Peter Mitchell who induced the Councillors to present the memorable address to the Lieutenant-Governor, which brought matters to a crisis. The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Edward Cardwell, afterwards raised to the peerage as Baron Cardwell, and since dead, informed