

kin believe that the people had decided in favor of the scheme, because he knew that such was not the case. I would like to know why he did not remain here to finish the work of educating the people up to the blessings of Confederation in the face of a high tariff and the Canadian Stamp Act. It is said if the Fenians come to Nova Scotia, or if there is any threatened invasion, the people must rise in their might; and yet if they are deprived of their rights and privileges as British freemen by those living on their own soil, they must be quiet.

All we required was the privilege of deciding the question for ourselves, and I shall turn the attention of the House to the language used by the gentleman who moved the resolution on which the delegates went to England, and we want nothing more than what he said to show the proper mode of dealing with this question. Mr. Miller said in Temperance Hall: "Let no attempt be made to place the walls of the Provincial Building between this measure and the electors of Nova Scotia. If the advocates of the measure have faith in the soundness of their scheme, let them submit it to the only tribunal competent to pass a judgment upon it, the people at the polls." That he then took the right view of the question the elections of last September clearly proved. Yet the gentleman who used this language came to the House and in his place moved the resolution on which the delegates went to England, in order to fasten this iniquitous scheme upon us. I would like to know why the course he advised at first ought not to have been followed in 1866? I am ashamed to say in my place in this House that so many public men of Nova Scotia, charged with the interests of this people, proved false to the trust reposed in them in the manner they did. Why, sir, a city wood sawyer, even the man who begs from door to door, "poor pensioner on the bounties of an hour," may better illustrate the worth and dignity of human nature than the men who betrayed their country, though they have half the letters of the alphabet after their names, and now receive high salaries in the Dominion as the reward of their deception. These men I hold to have been Nova Scotians only in name, and I am happy to see that some of them are out of the country, and if all of them were away the interests of the people would not suffer in consequence. Let me, however, add that I hold that men who have been consistent advocates of Confederation all through are not to be classed with those who came here declaring that they were opposed to the scheme, and afterwards voted in favor of it. The hon. member for Inverness the other day hinted that he hoped to change the opinions of some of the honest men he saw around these benches. I hope he will not be able to do any such thing. I believe every man will maintain his allegiance to his Queen and to the people, and that every one of them at least of the thirty-six will emulate the conduct of that noble Roman sentinel who forsook not his post at the gates of Pompeii, but was found when the ruins of that city were uncovered, standing in his place erect in death, still holding his spear. (Cheers in the gallery which was repressed by the chair.)

Mr. BLANCHARD—If it were not for the example set by the House itself the galleries would be quiet enough.

Hon. SPEAKER—Sir, it is not for you but for the chair to attend to the order of this House. You are not yourself inclined to preserve that decorum which is expected from every gentleman, for you very often converse with gentlemen on these benches when others are speaking.

Mr. BLANCHARD—I may say that never since I have had the honor of a seat in this House have I known a gentleman to be refused permission to interrupt another, and make some explanation. When gentlemen encourage that gallery to make demonstrations to destroy the order of this House they are at liberty to do so, but if you do not check them I will.

Hon. SPEAKER—When you, sir, assume the duties of the Speaker of this House, and whilst I am here to preside over the members of this body, and reprove them for anything, I must call you to order, and desire that this may never be done again. (Cheers in the gallery.)

Mr. BLANCHARD—"I see strangers in the gallery."

The galleries were cleared, and the House at once adjourned until Monday.

MONDAY, 17th Feby.

The House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. ELKANAH YEUNG presented a petition from Mount Uniacke, and introduced a bill in accordance with the prayer thereof, asking that that settlement be incorporated into West Hants.

Mr. RYERSON presented a petition from a Way Office Keeper, asking for a larger salary.

Mr. KIDSTON, a petition for money.

Mr. BLANCHARD, a petition for certain remuneration.

Mr. J. McDONALD, from School section, No. 9, St. Andrews, praying for an alteration in the School Law.

Mr. NORTUP, from A Coffie, of the Cumberland Hotel, Amherst, in reference to the License Law.

Mr. PURDY, also two petitions on the same subject.

The order of the day, the drawing of a Committee to consider the petition against the return of Mr. Blanchard, was then taken up.

Mr. BLANCHARD entered a protest against the petition on the ground that no legal and sufficient security has been filed—the securities being two members of the House.

Hon. SPEAKER said he had looked over the authorities, but he could not find an instance of any petitioner having two members of the same Legislature as securities, but perhaps the hon. gentleman, or his counsel, would cite some precedent.

Mr. BLANCHARD asked that he be heard by his counsel at the Bar.

The motion was granted, and JAMES McDONALD, Esq., appeared at the bar and addressed the House against the validity of the petition. He argued that it was contrary to the dignity of the House that members should act as securities in cases where they

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were acting as a Court. It should be remem-
bered, he argued, that the Legislature was
the highest court from which there was no
appeal, and consequently there was greater
necessity to do nothing that might tend to
the injury of those whose interests were in
their hands. No precedents could be found
anywhere—either in England or the colonies
—for such a case as was now under consid-
eration. It had been decided in the courts
below that a member of Parliament cannot be
received as bail, because, although he may be
worth the money a hundred times over, yet
he cannot be called upon to respond on ac-
count of his privilege. In elucidation of
this point the learned gentleman cited several
cases from May, Saunton, &c. In May, he
added, it is stated that there is an order of
the House, that members of the Commons
being barristers are not to appear before the
House of Lords in matters which are likely to
come before the House. What would be
thought of a member of Parliament accepting
a fee or reward in connection with matters
before the House? The independence of the
House would not be preserved if the mem-
bers were made directly interested in matters
concerning money that came before them.

On the conclusion of Mr. McDonald's re-
marks, the galleries were cleared, and the
question considered with closed doors.

On resuming the following committee was
struck: Mr. Ross, Hon. Mr. Robertson, Mr.
Johnson, Mr. Freeman, Mr. D. McDonald,
Mr. Lawrence. The committee was called to-
gether for Wednesday.

The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, 18th Feby.

The House met at 11 o'clock.

Mr. KIRK presented a petition from Guys-
boro' for a bridge across St. Mary's River,
and strongly urged the Government to take
the matter into consideration.

Mr. BLANCHARD also spoke in favour of the
construction of the work.

Mr. KIRK said if the Government would
not take the matter up, then the people of
Guysboro' would be obliged to ask for leave
to incorporate a Company to build the bridge,
and ask tolls thereon.

Mr. J. McDONALD presented a petition from
Black River, Fraser's Grant, Antigonish in
reference to Education. Also from Bl
Settlement, Tracadie, to change the name
thereof, and a bill in accordance with the
prayer thereof.

Mr. LANDERS, petitions for money grants.

Mr. JOHNSON, bill to legalize assessment
roll in Shelburne.

Mr. HOOPER, petition of Angus McDonald
and others, for money on a road.

Dr. MURRAY, petition, section No. 12, for
a change in a polling place; also a bill in ac-
cordance with the prayer thereof.

Hon. Mr. TROOP, petition from Annapolis,
praying the House to grant a survey of a
road between Shelburne and Annapolis; he
pointed out the necessity that exists for the
work in question.

Mr. BLANCHARD said the former Govern-
ment had a given a pledge to construct the
work, which was undoubtedly desirable.

On motion of Mr. Blanchard, Messrs. Blan-
chard, Vail, and Northup were appointed a
Committee of the House in reference to the
Legislative Library.

The adjourned debate was then resumed.

MR. DESBRISAY'S SPEECH.

(CONCLUDED.)

Mr. DESBRISAY then continued his speech: I
was interrupted in the Address which I was
making to the House on Saturday, by the
hon. member for Inverness. He found fault
with the members of this House following the
practice of the British House of Commons in
expressing their opinions of what they hear,
and I think he might have shown to me a
measure of the same forbearance which was
exhibited to himself on a previous day when
you, Sir, having given orders for the galle-
ries to be cleared, the occupants were allowed
to remain because that hon. gentleman saw
"respectable people" among them. The re-
turn I make is this: I am ready to bear my
testimony that the hon. member is very use-
ful in this House, and I know that since I
came here he has given his attention closely
to the public business. When I closed on Sa-
turday I was about referring to the cry of
disloyalty and annexation which has been
brought against the Anti-confederate party
in this country. From whom does this cry of
disloyalty and annexation come? Chiefly
from a few persons in the city of Halifax
whose stock in trade appears to me to be
slander; slander which, in the words of
Shakespeare,

"Outvenoms all the worms of Nile,
And makes the meat it feeds upon."

Slander which, as we see day after day,
spares neither the longest life of usefulness
nor the highest respectability. I am happy,
however, to know that these persons stand
alone, and that they have about as much in-
fluence now in this country as they had on
the eighteenth of September last. There has
been a good deal of lip and pocket loyalty in
Nova Scotia, expressly manufactured for the
occasion. With this loyalty I have nothing
whatever to do. I love England, the home
of my fathers and the birthplace of the free;
England that leads the nations, asking them
to accept for themselves the great and mani-
fold blessings that follow in her train; Eng-
land that in so many lands, our own in-
cluded, has erected her national flag and the
standard of the cross together, so that the
lustre of the one is made brighter by the
glory of the other—this England I love. I
do not, however, love this dear land of the
Mayflower any the less, and the rights and
interests of her people are to me objects of
special importance. A great deal has been
said about the tariff, to which the people of
Nova Scotia are subjected by the Confedera-
tion scheme. In examining it, I do not so
much care whether there are certain articles
that are admitted duty free which were not
free before. The main question which con-
cerns the people is this: Are the articles
most required for their subsistence taxed?
If those articles chiefly consumed by the poor
people are taxed, whilst those that are used