

tion that had obtained in the House in regard to Dalhousie being a Presbyterian Institution. He looked at it with the knowledge of the sentiments of many gentlemen connected with the Presbyterian body, and he knew that a large amount of opposition existed in respect to this Institution, on the ground that it was not denominational. The feeling that arose in consequence of Dr. Crawley's rejection had the effect of creating denominational institutions connected with almost every body; but it was known that the body, to which he (Mr A) belonged, never gave in their adhesion to the principle. Gradually, however, the Presbyterians felt compelled to establish an institution at Truro. Gradually their affections had begun to cling around that institution, just as did those of the Baptists around Acadia; and the consequence was that a large and influential portion of the Presbyterians had been most earnestly opposed to anything which would have the tendency of destroying their denominational college at Truro, and run the risk of the hazardous experiment of supporting an institution which might be ephemeral in its prosperity. Therefore at the present moment, so far from looking at Dalhousie as a Presbyterian institution, very many of the best educated Presbyterians considered it rather as a source of weakness. He did not think that with the feeling that prevailed in Nova Scotia with regard to educational institutions it would be feasible in this Legislature to carry out a more extensive system. He had always had a desire to see an institution free from any denominational feeling. Whether rightly or wrongly, he believed that such an institution should be sustained, for he had felt that the funds of a small Province directed to one focus for the education of all classes, might be of greater benefit than a number of colleges which could not be supported with the same amount of means. He looked upon these separate colleges, in fact as disbursing the funds that ought to be used for the purpose of general education. He hoped that Dalhousie would succeed in the end. Any attempt to divert the funds to any other purpose than that of Education would be a gross outrage upon the rights of property and an unjustifiable breach of constitutional privileges. It would be also, he argued, a violation of the public faith that could not be excused if any legislation should be effected for the purpose of breaking up the arrangements that had been entered into in virtue of the act of last session. Whatever might have been the position of the House last year, it was very different now. He could hardly suppose that the hon. gentleman who had introduced the first resolution could have contemplated the consequences of his action—consequences which, it was apparent to any one who considered the subject closely, were inevitable.

EVENING SESSION.

The House resumed at quarter to 8 o'clock. Hon. FINL SEC. would not have risen to address the House upon this question, but that he felt that the vote he was about to give required some explanation. If the present legislation were not upon the Statute Book—and in his opinion it should never have been placed there—and the question was now coming up for the first time upon its own merits, his vote would probably be different; but as he felt that the House was committed by the act of last year, however erroneous that policy may have been, he thought it would be unfair not to allow those who now had charge of the interests of Dalhousie, a fair chance to try the experiment of establishing it upon a proper basis. He should therefore be compelled to vote against the resolution of the hon. member for Kings for the reasons he had given.

Mr. PARKER said that it might be considered presumption for an old farmer, who had scarcely been with sight of a college, to say anything on the subject before the House—but farmer as he was, he had his own ideas on the question, and he would endeavour to express them. A great deal had been said lately about the Presbyterians receiving too much of the Provincial funds. Now, what were the facts. The first establishment of learning they had was at Pictou. That institution received as others did, £250. After that was abandoned, a seminary was established at West River, Pictou, where the youth of that church were educated. This was soon found too small, and a seminary was then built at Truro. From the time of the commencement of the seminary at West River, the Presbyterians did not receive any provincial aid, but maintained their institutions from their own resources. It was true that a few years ago they united with the Free Church, who were receiving Provincial aid for a seminary in Halifax. And now that the House had thought proper last session to put Dalhousie upon a proper footing, and had invited all denominations to unite, he could not understand why this cry was raised against it. A great deal had been said lately about the importance of Union in reference to the Colonies—and if it was important in that respect, it was also important in connection with this College, and he hoped that all denominations would unite and endeavour to place it upon the proper basis. The Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia by the last census, numbered 90,000—and heretofore she had been obliged to send her sons to Scotland to study theology, for want of suitable institutions in this country. Now that there was a prospect of a Provincial University being established here, he hoped all would unite in its favour, and make it what its original founders intended, an Institution open to all.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said that he had been in hopes that it would not have been necessary for him again to have addressed the House upon this question, and he would have preferred to have rested upon the remarks he had made on a former occasion, but in view of the new position the question had assumed, by the amendment proposed by the member for Kings, (Dr. Hamilton) it would perhaps be expected of him, that he should make a few observations.

He had listened attentively, when the House was invited to take action, the most extraordinary and extreme that any Legislature was ever called upon to take upon such a question, for any arguments that could be adduced to sustain the position that was assumed. He had, however, listened in vain for any semblance of argument by which either the hon. member for Annapolis or the hon. member for Kings could support the propositions they had submitted. In the absence of argument, he had heard that which he was surprised to

hear—and which he was proud to say was but seldom heard in that House. He had heard threats and insinuations held out to influence the sentiments and control the action of members upon this question. He had heard it insinuated in insolent terms in the Press, that if gentlemen dared to take that straight forward course which the interests of the country and the public good demanded, they would sow to the wind and reap the whirlwind. But the individual who used that language little knew the character of the men who represented the public interests if he imagined that they occupied so despicable a position, as to allow their judgments to be controlled, or their action influenced by such threats as these. When he cast his eye up and down the benches and saw around him gentlemen who with scarcely an exception discharged their public duties at great personal sacrifice—men of the first position in the country—the most successful merchants who had accumulated their thousands and tens of thousands by their energy and ability—gentlemen of the legal profession who it was not too much to say had not their peers at the Bar in this country. When beside these he saw gentlemen of the profession to which he belonged who did not sit there an hour without personal loss—and gentlemen of the farming interest who occupied prominent positions in the country. When he saw all these, he was inclined to ask to whom was this insulting language addressed, or who were they that were to be told that their action must be moulded, and their sentiments adapted to meet the pressure from without?

There was nothing so easy to create as sectional feelings and denominational jealousies.—He had on a former occasion known what it was to stand in the breach and bear the brunt of the storm. He had to succumb to it, but not until he had succeeded in placing on the ramparts the standard of civil and religious liberty in a position so firm as never since to have been assailed. He did not undervalue the importance of public opinion; but he felt that he stood there, not as the champion of any particular denomination, but with a higher and more solemn duty to perform, which he was endeavouring to discharge, irrespective of any personal considerations.

It was with no ordinary feelings of gratification that he had listened to the liberal and patriotic sentiments which had been expressed by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Tobin). If there was any one in the House who might be supposed to be drawn aside from his duty, it was that hon. member, and therefore it was that he was the more gratified to find him rising superior to any such considerations, and taking a course that was alike creditable to himself, to the denomination to which he belonged, and to the metropolitan constituency that he represented.

He had already pointed out that the House could not take the course proposed by the member for Annapolis without committing a gross breach of public faith; for it must be remembered that large personal interests are connected with the legislation of last year. What would be thought of us in Canada and in Scotland, if, after inducing men of ability and eminence to abandon positions in those countries, we should turn round and renege the legislation which brought them here?

He was inclined to go further than either of his hon. colleagues, the Atty. General and the Finl Secy. While he was delighted to find them doing what their sense of justice would lead them to do—while he was pleased to hear them announce their intention of keeping intact the law upon the statute book, he did not agree with them in the views they had thrown out, that but for this legislation, they would be inclined to support the resolution of the hon. member for Annapolis. He did not hesitate to say, that in view of the present position of this question before the country, if he was called upon again to take action in the matter, he would give the act upon the statute-book his cordial approval—because he felt that it was the means of taking funds that were lying dormant and useless, and applying them to an institution that promised to be a great blessing to the country.

He had endeavored, on a former occasion, in feeble language, to pay a just tribute to the existing Educational Institutions of the country, and he repeated that the people of this country owed a debt of gratitude to those who had fostered and sustained them, and brought them to their present state of efficiency. But was it to be said that because the Province derived advantages of no common kind from these Institutions that we were not to seek for a higher educational status than we now enjoyed? That the Legislature was to put its hands upon an attempt to secure for this province educational advantages of a still higher order? Surely not. Hence it was that he was so anxious that all denominations should unite in placing Dalhousie on a proper basis—for he was convinced that it would result not only in immediate advantage to the college itself, but to the educational interests of the Province generally. While he would have been glad to have seen the Kirk of Scotland founding a denominational institution of its own, or reviving the one at Truro, and while he would have been disposed to afford it provincial assistance, he would be much more gratified to see all these denominations combining together—not that he took any particular interest in the Presbyterian denomination, but because he felt that such an union would elevate the Educational status of the country.

The resolution of the hon. member for Annapolis was bad enough, but it was nothing compared to that moved by the member for Kings, (Dr. Hamilton,) he was afraid not without the knowledge and acquiescence of the former gentleman—and he could now understand why that hon. gentleman took the very extraordinary course of adjourning his own debate. Knowing as he did that public sentiment in this House was against him, he was too old a tactician to take the question, until he had time to alter his mode of attack. Bad as was the resolution of the hon. member for Annapolis, he was hardly prepared for that moved by the member for Kings. The member for Annapolis, although he advanced no argument in support of his position further than that a number of persons wanted the repeal of the law on the Statute Book—told us in a straightforward way that he wanted the £5,000 refunded.

But what could be said for the amendment of the member for Kings?

Some discussion had taken place as to the moving cause which had called forth the petitions upon the table of the House. He deeply regretted that they had emanated to a large extent from the Baptist denomination. He regretted it the more because that denomination—within whose pale he had been born and educated—had always stood in the vanguard of education, and had from the personal sacrifices it had endured in the maintenance of its educational institutions, won the admiration and esteem of all. He had too much respect for the honourable character of the men connected with the Educational Establishments of this and the other denominations of the Province to associate them with the resolution of the member for Kings, or to imagine that they would be parties to an act of spoliation, and then be participants in the spoil. He had had occasion in the commencement of his remarks to allude in indignant terms to the attempt made by threats and intimidations to influence the action of members on this question. He would infinitely prefer that, rather than resort should be had to unblushing bribery. Bribery was bad enough when one's own money was used—but when the public monies were sought to be filched from the public treasury, and diverted from the purpose for which they were originally intended, no words could be used strong enough to condemn it. He regretted that the member for Kings was not in his place, and that his duty compelled him thus to allude to his action in his absence.

(The hon. gentleman here commented upon Dr. Hamilton's resolution and stated that it was impossible for any member to vote for it, as it contained statements inconsistent with the facts. For instance it stated that all the Presbyterian bodies had united, whereas it was well known, that as much difference prevailed between them as between Episcopalians, Methodists, and Baptists. The hon. gentleman went on to argue that the Presbyterians were not receiving an undue proportion of the public funds inasmuch as if the three denominations into which they were divided had each its separate educational establishments, they would be entitled to £250 a year for each, or £750 a year in all; and he contended that it was much more to the interests of the Baptists to combine their resources and remove their staff of Professors to Dalhousie, than to remain isolated and dependant upon their own resources. If that were done, and the Wesleyans and others would unite,—instead of our youth being expatriated as was truly said by the member for South Colchester (Mr. Parker), and driven from their country to obtain their education, we would be enabled to give it to them within our own borders.)

In conclusion, he said that it was because he was not satisfied with the present position of education in this country that he felt inclined to afford this Institution all the aid in his power, and he called upon the hon. gentleman if they had any regard for the public faith of the country, not to lend a hand in this attempt to repeal what he considered sound legislation.

Mr. CHURCHILL in the course of a few remarks expressed his conviction that any attempt to make Dalhousie a universal institute would be a failure. It would be better to sell it, and divide the amount amongst the existing Educational Institutions of the country.

Mr. LONGLEY said—I am not insensible to the many disadvantages under which I labour in speaking at the present time. I feel that I have not the stimulating influences which operate upon the mind of the Provincial Secretary this evening. A man cannot but feel a certain degree of excitement when he knows he carries with him even the sympathy of the galleries. But the public man who cannot withstand such influences—who is not prepared to brave every danger for principles that he considers important, ought never to enter public life. Influenced by such feelings, I shall venture this evening, in the face of the eloquence that has characterized the speech of the Provincial Secretary, to address you. I feel that so far as the result of this debate is concerned, it would be well if I waived the privilege of closing this discussion; but I would be untrue to myself as well as to a large proportion of the people of this country whom I believe I represent on this question, if I were to restrain myself from giving expression to some extent to the indignant feeling which has been produced on my mind this evening. When I addressed the House the other day, I carefully avoided any unpleasant reference to any body or sect of people in this country, and it is not my purpose to-night to say a single word that would be considered in the slightest degree disrespectful in reference to a body of people, many of whom I sincerely respect. In the advocacy of this question I am not influenced by any narrow or sectarian feelings, that would exclude any denomination from the true exercise of their judgment and feelings and disposition, in reference to the great subject of Education. But I think, notwithstanding the intimation thrown out by the Provincial Secy., there has not yet been a single word said, bearing directly upon this question, or an argument worthy of any consideration. I do flatter myself that I did present this question before the House in a fair and I may say lucid manner. I do not pretend to say that in reference to this or any other question I can at all reach the marked eloquence that distinguishes other gentlemen in this Legislature; but I think I can say that I have put the facts that are connected with this question in a manner that is fully appreciated by a large proportion of the people of this country. The Provincial Secy. has undertaken to pay a very flattering compliment to the gentlemen sitting around these benches—that they are possessed of such an amount of integrity that they can afford to disregard the express sentiments of their constituents when they are opposed to their own judgments. I am quite willing to accord to the gentlemen here what he claims for them, and yet I believe there are very few men in this Legislature now or heretofore, who have been raised above the wishes and sympathies, and influence of their constituents. I think that perhaps the hon. Prov. Secy even may have shaped his legislation in this House with a view of influencing not only his own constituents, but those far out and beyond them. I am not going to say it positively, but I shall not be at all surprised to find that the course of the Provincial Secretary was shaped, in the first instance, in respect to this matter, in view of the possible

effect it might have upon an approaching election. It is not an uncommon thing for a man who has first hesitated to support a scheme, to become, after fully committed, so wedded to it, that he flatters himself his judgment coincides in his course, and that he is influenced by a sincere conviction. In the advocacy of this question my thoughts naturally turn far backward to a period when this question—for it is substantially the same—that agitated the country many years ago—was before the Legislature—when the denominational system of colleges was argued with an ability that will never be forgotten, and there comes vividly before my mind this evening the position which my hon. friend, the Attorney General, occupied at that time, and I cannot but contrast it to some extent with the position which he has taken to-night—a position which he acknowledges he has unwillingly assumed, for he has stated that he wished he was unfettered and able to advocate the views which he expressed 20 years ago.

I am going to state the grave objection to this scheme. The objection is not that the Presbyterians are seeking for a higher education. They are justified in doing that, but it is that owing to the peculiar circumstances in which this country is placed at the present time, in consequence of the system of denominational colleges established 20 years ago, we cannot allow the present scheme in reference to Dalhousie, without doing a manifest injustice to other leading denominations in this Province whose rights and opinions have as much claim to be respected as those of any single denomination, as in the present case.

It was said by the hon. Provincial Secretary that this movement was lead by the Baptist denomination, and he was disposed, I think, to throw all odium upon them for the agitation in this country. I believe this to be an aspersion upon that body, and I think his are the lips that should be the last to make that statement. I think that to night the Episcopalians are not less interested in this question than the Baptists—at the Catholics are just as much so as are the other denominations. What do you think King's College will do in this emergency. Do you think the Episcopalians are going to take any steps that will tend to the injury of their own institution which has been erected at an expense of perhaps £25,000, and excels in every respect Dalhousie and I believe has a position infinitely above what the latter will ever attain. Can you expect them to come forward and take a chair in this comparatively insignificant institution? If you could induce the Baptists, or Episcopalians, or Methodists to participate in this institution and do it without sacrificing their own institution, then I would say this is all fair and a scheme that should be recommended. I do not forget, as the Provincial Secretary forgets, the difficulties and sacrifices that have characterized the history of that beautiful edifice at Wolfville—that this institution is the result of honest toil and labor; and do you think that those whose sympathies and affections cling around Acadia are to be now attracted to shelter themselves within the walls of Dalhousie?

We have been told that we have on the tables a number of petitions to which are attached the names of men who do not understand the question. I admit there may be many of them who do not appreciate it in all its relations, but if they did fully understand it their feelings would be only the more excited, and instead of forty petitions there would be double the number here. I am satisfied that if the matter is allowed to remain open, when we all meet here again next winter, there will be ten petitions where there is now one. But we have been told again and again that the men who are agitating this question, and are interested in the action of the House, are incompetent to consider it in all its aspects. I venture to say that there are men connected with King's College, with Sackville, and Acadia, as competent as those who are now associated with, and labouring within Dalhousie College, and I say this without any wish to disparage them in any respect whatever. Yet these men are among those who take the deepest interest in this question. I go further and I take the liberty of reminding the Provincial Secretary that there is a name attached to one of these petitions which at least he would be inclined to respect, and the circumstance of its being appended ought to some extent to influence him from applying to one at least of these documents the harsh expressions which he has ventured to make use of on the present occasion. That man, I believe, is as competent to form a just opinion, though he may not have passed through a regular college course, in reference to the great question of education as connected with the interests of the country and as well prepared to say what are the sentiments of his own denomination, as the learned Provincial Secretary himself; and I may go further and say that it would not be according too high praise to that gentleman to say he is even better qualified.

(The hon. gentleman then went on to point out the privileges enjoyed by the Presbyterians under the legislation of last year, and the injustice it did to other denominations. He next expressed his surprise at the statement of the hon. member for Halifax, Mr. Shannon, that the funds of Dalhousie did not belong to the Province, which he considered had been effectually disposed of by the Atty. General. He said he did not think the Presbyterians themselves would undertake to uphold such a strange doctrine as that, and showed from various facts in the history of the Institution, that the money did belong to the Province. He denied that the resolutions introduced by himself or by the hon. member for Kings would perpetrate a breach of faith. He alluded to the fact that the governors with whom the Presbyterian committees conferred at first, in order to enter into arrangements for the transfer of Dalhousie, were exclusively Presbyterians. He considered the whole negotiation from beginning to end as very strange, especially when taken in connection with the fact that the Presbyterians carried out the scheme in order to meet their peculiar circumstances and carry out their own peculiar notions, without a moment considering that there were three or four other leading denominations who composed the largest proportion of the people of this country, and