

out unity of purpose or design, are not at all unlikely to fall, one after the other, into the ranks of the American Union. But does he not see that his present scheme, which, if it were practicable, would place British America in the position not simply of a *defensive* but an *aggressive* power,—since it would give her representation in the Imperial Parliament, make her liable to taxation for Imperial purposes, and, in fact, immediately responsible for the foreign policy of Great Britain—ought to be far more obnoxious to our ambitious and troublesome neighbours than the system of Union devised at Quebec? If ever they wanted an excuse for invading these colonies, they would soon be able to find it under Mr. Howe's admirable plan. He is very anxious, if we are to believe what he says in the foregoing extract, that the provinces should have abundant opportunity "to resume their accustomed role of peaceful development as outlying portions of the Empire." A very natural and praiseworthy wish from a colonist, but is it to be best attained by a Union of the provinces or by Mr. Howe's wild scheme? Let any one of ordinary intelligence study this question, and he will have little difficulty in arriving at the correct solution.

Supposing this scheme of taxation could be carried out, what would be the position of these colonies in the Imperial Parliament? It is true they would have a few representatives in that body,—for Mr. Howe has felt Taxation without Representation would be a principle even he could hardly dare to advocate—but what weight would they have? They might disapprove of some foreign policy which would largely increase the responsibilities of their constituents, but all they could do would be to remonstrate and pay the bills.

Look at this question in what light we may, it is impossible not to see its unfairness and absurdity. Mr. Howe says himself that it is doubtful if it will be acceptable to the people of these dependencies, but nevertheless he wishes that an enquiry

should be made into their feelings on the subject. Is it not very probable that this plan is suggested with a view of deferring the question of Union indefinitely, or till such time as Mr. Howe may be in a position to carry out the political designs he has now in view? It is a matter of notoriety to every one in the Maritime Provinces that the object of the Anti-Union party throughout has been DELAY. A "Remonstrance" recently sent to England by twenty out of one hundred and thirty members of the Canadian Parliament, is simply a plea for delay. Mr. Howe's extraordinary scheme may be only a part of a general conspiracy to defer the question of Union as long as possible. If it be true, as has been stated by many of the most reliable journals in Canada that the Canadian Remonstrance is chiefly signed by men "who are either open or avowed annexationists,"* it is time that all those who value British connection were on their guard.

THE PLAN OF CONFEDERATION.

Having dealt thus fully with Mr. Howe's scheme for the organization of the Empire, we may now proceed to enquire into the duty of the colonists at the present crisis. All of us recognize it as an obligation devolving upon us to assume larger responsibilities in the way of Self-Defence. When these colonies were but poor and struggling communities, it was manifestly the duty of the parent state to assist them freely and gratuitously to the full extent of its power; but when they have outgrown the stage of pupillage and dependence, and exhibit the strength and proportions of manhood, it is time they should assume some of its responsibilities. If there are communities in British America who do not recognize their obligations to the parent state, or, in the words of Mr. Howe, "who desire to enjoy all the privileges and immunities of the Queen's subjects without paying for or defending them," we do not know who they are. If one reason more than another has

* Toronto Daily Leader.

influenc
to urge
necess
binatio
time of

An
presen
that of
centur
with s
as we
border
the ye
la-Cha
was a
in the
was p
the M
out, h
the m
a vast
bility
both
peare
and i
and s
yield
and
cond
sion
spir
Each
on t
bills
eloge
of t
gat
ing
ha
acc
the
tin
qu
co
ou
li
J
v
i