

Dominion, to the authority of which, by law, her people are bound to submit.

I hope to get into the County soon, and will then be prepared to answer any questions you may ask, or to give any further information that this paper does not supply. In the meantime,

Believe me,

Yours truly,

JOSEPH HOWE. ✓

(PRIVATE.)

OTTAWA, October 6th, 1868.

MY DEAR MR. HOWE,—Now that the Legislature of Nova Scotia has been prorogued, and the exciting discussions on Constitutional questions for a time ended, I think the time has come when I can again ask your aid and influence in endeavouring to allay the feeling that unhappily exists in Nova Scotia, and to give the Union Act a fair trial.

For that purpose, I desire to repeat, shortly, the material portions of the Statement that the Committee of the Convention, of which you were Chairman, were kind enough to allow Sir George Cartier and myself to make.

In the first place I will say, on behalf of the late Province of Canada, that in the question of Union we acted in good faith. The Delegations from the several Provinces were appointed by their respective Governments, and we had reason to believe that the Governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as fully represented their people as the Canadian Government did.

I regret extremely the present unfortunate state of affairs, and my colleagues and myself are prepared to do all that we can to put an end to it.

By the Despatch of the Duke of Buckingham to Lord Monck, of the 4th June last, in answer to the Address of your House of Assembly, the Governor General and his advisers are precluded from even entering upon the consideration of the question of the repeal of the Act of Union.

His Grace declares that the measure is not only conducive to the strength and welfare of the Provinces concerned, but *important to the interests of the whole Empire*, and states that the Queen's Government feel that they would not be warranted in advising the reversal of this great measure of State.

He, however, draws the attention of Lord Monck and his Government to the points raised in the Address relative to taxation, the regulation of Trade and the Fisheries; and he expresses a confidence (which I am sure is well founded) that it will be the care and wish of that Government, and of the Parliament of the Dominion, to relax or modify any arrangements on those subjects which may prejudice the peculiar interests of Nova Scotia and the Maritime portion of the Dominion.

On this point I can only repeat what I stated before the Committee, that the Canadian Government is not only ready but anxious to enter upon a frank and full discussion of those points, and are prepared, in case the pressure of taxation should be shewn to be unequal, or unjust to Nova