

representatives of Provinces numbering nearly four millions of inhabitants, and at his sole instance to propose a Colonial policy still more objectionable than that which lost the American States to the British Crown, and which is now universally condemned.

The opponents of Confederation in the Maritime Provinces who have been taught to believe that there exists no necessity for any change in our institutions in order to render our position more secure, will read with some astonishment the following aspersions from one who claims to be the exponent of their views. In Mr. Howe's pamphlet just published, he says (page 7) :—

"It is apparent that but for external pressure and danger from without, we might go on as we are without any material change. \* \* \* But we have no such security for peace, or if there be any, it is only to be sought in such an organization and armament of the whole Empire as will make the certainty of defeat a foregone conclusion to any foreign power that may attempt to break it."

Again (page 11) Mr. Howe says :—

"Turning to the United States we find our most formidable commercial rival, and as matters stand, perhaps our least reliable friend and ally. I am not without some hope that by prudence, firmness, and good humour, and by systematically setting public opinion right through American channels of circulation as to the power, the public sentiment, and the designs of this country, we may yet be able to so inform the masses who control the Government, as to make war with Great Britain nearly impossible; but in the present temper of the Republic we have no security for peace, and we may as well then survey with discriminating forecast, the strength and resources of the nation with which we have to contend."

I do not know whether Mr. Howe would class his own publications among the means of setting public opinion in America right "as to the power" of Great Britain, but I certainly cannot imagine anything more calculated to invite aggression, than the exaggerated pictures he is constantly drawing of the power of the "Great Republic," and the weakness of this country. He says (page 13) :—

"I would be sorry to see them (the British Islands) even now without any support from the outlying Provinces, engaged in a war with the United States, and I cannot disguise from myself, that twenty years hence, their position will be much more perilous, and the odds against them much more disproportionate."

Having thus given his opinion as to the perilous position in which the British North American Colonies now stand, and the necessity for immediate action, Mr. Howe proceeds to detail his mode of saving the Empire, as follows. He says (page 13) :—

"Now I would lift this question above the range of doubt or apprehension, and prepare for all eventualities by such an organization of the Empire, as would enable the sovereign to command its entire physical force. If Russia, France, or the United States is involved in war to-morrow, the revenue and the manhood of the whole territory are at the disposal of the Executive; while if we go to war, the whole burden of sustaining it falls upon the people of these two small Islands. This is not fair: our unprepared condition makes war at all times possible, sometimes imminent." \* \* \* (Page 14.) "I foresee the difficulties in this as in all other cases; there is a certain amount of indifference, of ignorance and of selfishness to be overcome, but I rely upon the general intelligence of the Empire to perceive the want, and upon its patriotism and public spirit to supply it. Surely if a Russian serf can be got to march from Siberia to the Crimea to defend his Empire, the Queen's subjects can be educated to know and feel that it is alike their duty and their interest to march anywhere to defend their own. The young men of Maine and Massachusetts rushed to protect their capital from rebellious fellow citizens, and I am sure when once the possibility of a requisition is made familiar to the Colonial mind, that the youths of our outlying Provinces would rush as eagerly to defend London from a foreign foe. "But it may be said that the Russian obeys a central authority which it would be vain to dispute, and that the American fights for his perfect citizenship, which includes the control of the foreign policy and representation in the National Council." \* \* \* (Page 15.) "I can see no solution of them all more simple and easy than this: To treat all the Colonies which have Legislatures and where the system of Responsible Government is in operation, as having achieved a higher political status than Crown Colonies, or foreign dependencies, and to permit them to send to the House of Commons one, two, or three members of their Cabinets, according to their size, popula-