

stump and quiet in the Council, who feel that in a union of all the colonies they at least would be snuffed out. Here is the outrage—the oppression of the minority. Little Rhode Island refused to send a delegate to the convention of 1787; and did not accede to the result for several years. When in 1820 the Province of Cape Breton was annexed to Nova Scotia it was allowed to return two members to the Nova Scotian Assembly. Its population was eight thousand, only one-tenth of Prince Edward Island; but a wail of sorrow and indignation went up to the Imperial Legislature. The most dreadful future was conjured up, and a petition was forwarded to England in the “tyranny and oppression” vein which might answer as a model for Mr. Howe’s. The hard-hearted Parliament would not listen to those poor islanders under the heel of Nova Scotia; and yet Cape Breton has not rebelled, and even supports her hard fate with tranquility.

To read Mr. Howe’s book one would suppose that the Canadians were invading Nova Scotia, as the Germans did Schleswig-Holstein. He tells us of the hard fate of those provinces as apropos to the occasion. Fortunately, he also proves that we have not, and never can have, a fleet or army. Who could believe, after all this, that the Confederation resolutions were passed by a two-third majority of the Nova Scotia popular chamber?

On a matter of so much importance the most moderate statesman might well differ in detail; but Mr. Howe now denounces the whole scheme of union. He will have no union with such a country as Canada on any terms. His mission now is one of disorganization. The future he now prognosticates is Canada and New Brunswick annexed to the United States, and Nova Scotia hanging on to the empire, the neck of the peninsula fortified and the sea protected by British gunboats. All his glorious dreams have suddenly faded, and the preservation of Nova Scotia to the Crown is all that can be hoped for. Messrs. Bolton and Webber would go a little further in the same direction. They would abandon not only Canada and New Brunswick, but Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. Even to their bold spirits Nova Scotia appears defensible, and they would have it held, for imperial purposes only, like Aden, Malta, and Gibraltar. A residence

among the Nova Scotians has convinced them of the unfitness of that people for self-government, and they advocate a return to the old system. They speak with contempt of the public men of the colony, and describe incendiarism, infanticide and homicide as rampant in Halifax, unchecked and unnoticed owing to the lax administration of the laws under responsible government. Dear, tranquil old Halifax! Where is your champion of former days? Fighting in the same boat with these slanderous subalterns. Well may they confess having had “misgivings in putting forth their book.” The amazing wonder is that Mr. Howe can refrain from falling foul of them. If these anticipated battles of theirs are to be fought, the British lion would do well not to sit quite so near the edge of the continent.

Let the people of England not be deceived by Mr. Howe or Messrs. Bolton and Webber. It is not separation we want from England, but a durable connection. We want to share in the councils of the empire, but not by returning three or ten members to an imperial parliament of 600. We know the respect England has for force, and we want to aggregate our forces. We want a united government, so that when the British Government has anything to say it will not have to concert with five provincial parliaments, each with its crotchety man to call out “tyranny and oppression.” We want some share of the sympathy and blandishment so lavishly bestowed on the United States, and we will give a better return. Then, when those great outlying portions of our race, which remain attached to the parent stem, are themselves organized, we may say to our common sovereign, We share the dangers of the empire in war—its profits in peace; we have governed ourselves well, we are worthy of your consideration; we ask now for admission into those portions of your councils which concern our common welfare.

But nothing can be said on that head more appropriate than the words of Lord Durham, the Queen’s High Commissioner:—  
“I do not anticipate that a Colonial Legislature thus strong and thus self-governing would desire to abandon the connection with Great Britain, and I look to it as the only means of fostering such a national feeling throughout them as would effectual-