

UNION OF THE BRITISH PROVINCES.

THE CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES AT CHARLOTTETOWN.

THE question of uniting the British American Colonies under one Legislature and one Government, or the greater question of forming them into a Confederation, somewhat after the model of the United States Government, but preserving the connection with the British Crown—has for more than ten years engaged the close attention of leading statesmen in all the Colonies—the chiefs of rival parties merging sectional considerations in the advocacy of the measure. The late Lord Durham had advocated it many years before in his celebrated Report on the affairs of British America; and there is no doubt that that Report was the incentive to an enquiry by Colonial Statesmen into the merits of a Legislative or Federal Union. In the Parliament of Nova Scotia the question of Union was discussed with singular ability in 1854, the Hon. Mr. Howe and the Hon. Mr. Johnston, leaders of the rival parties, although differing widely on questions of local policy, manifested a cordial agreement in their advocacy of a measure which they felt assured would be the means of constituting a great nation, by combining the elements of strength and wealth which all the British American Provinces possess. Since 1854, the great directors of public opinion in England, have, through their press, strenuously advocated the question of Union—statesmen occupying the highest places in the Imperial Cabinet, have, on public occasions, frequently done the same; and within the last