

Joseph Howe only as an historical figure, will appreciate his motives and justify his course. No other man than he could have arrayed the whole province of Nova Scotia against Confederation as he did in the September elections of 1867, and few men would have had the moral courage to disregard the verdict thus given to his case and embark in an agreement with the very forces against which that verdict was cast. Howe took this step simply because he realized at last the futility of further opposition to the expressed will of the Colonial authorities in London. He was absolutely devoid of selfish inspiration, and sincerely desirous of promoting the best interests of Nova Scotia as a unit in a system from which it was found impossible to withdraw. Howe's view of the Confederation project in its inception and consummation was unfortunately distorted by his political far-sightedness. He overlooked the possibilities of the present. He was chargeable with the error which a distinguished American journalist once imputed to a professional rival, the error of cutting the future into too large slices. He was a federationist by instinct, but his contemplated union called for the active hegemony of the mother country and the intimate association of the colonies with her in a scheme of comprehensive, tolerant and progressive administration. Of course, this was a dream, but to a man of Howe's rich and fertile imagination, it was a dream worth cherishing. And he cherished it to the end, even when he knew that he was powerless to contribute to its realization.

In conclusion, it may be said that Mr. Longley's book is one no student of Canadian history can afford to be without. History is the biography of those who make it, and in this part of Canada, at least, Joseph Howe, as a history maker, ranks foremost.

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