

# LETTER

FROM

THE HON. CHARLES TUPPER,  
PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, &c.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NOVA SCOTIA:

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,—

HAVING been called, under the free institutions which we enjoy, to take a leading part in the administration of the public affairs of my native Province, and charged by the Legislature, as I and my co-delegates now here have been, to promote the Union of British America, I think it my duty to draw your attention to a very extraordinary proposal which the Hon. JOSEPH HOWE has recently published, and in which all classes of the inhabitants of Nova Scotia are vitally interested.

You are aware that Mr. HOWE, not long since, claiming to represent the views of a majority of the people of that Province, published a pamphlet embodying all the objections which he could present in opposition to the proposed Union between Canada and the Maritime Provinces. To that pamphlet I replied at length, and discussed fully every argument which had been offered in opposition to a Union of the Colonies, and until Mr. HOWE ventures a reply to which he is not ashamed to attach his own signature, no further observations seem called for on that subject. The effect of Mr. HOWE's first pamphlet upon the intelligent public mind of this country may be gathered from the following extracts from one of the most independent and able journals in Great Britain. The *Saturday Review* says:—

"It would not be easy fully to appreciate the benefits which Confederation provides to the Maritime Provinces, without first hearing the feeble views which are still urged by the discomfited Minority. \* \* \* Mr. Howe's arguments, however, are about as conclusive in favor of the scheme which he denounces, as anything which possibly could be urged by its supporters. \* \* \* Mr. Howe's pamphlet is valuable as shewing on how weak a basis of Provincial prejudice and political cowardice the opposition to this large scheme of Union has been built."

Finding that the Government and Parliament, in common with the press and people of Great Britain, regarded the proposed Union of British North America as not only calculated to promote the best interests and progress of those Colonies, but also to secure and perpetuate their connection with the British Crown, and that the "feeble" objections which he had urged to that policy were considered as "conclusive in favor of the scheme which he "denounced," Mr. HOWE addressed himself to the still more difficult task of propounding a counter plan for the organization of the Empire. It is a curious commentary upon the representative institutions of which Mr. HOWE has professed to be the advocate, that at a time when delegates from Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, appointed by their Governments with the authority of large majorities of the Legislatures of those Provinces, are assembling in London to arrange with Her Majesty's Government the terms of a measure to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, by which they may be united under one Government, Mr. HOWE modestly asks the British Cabinet to ignore the action of the Governments and constitutional