

correspondence with Mr. George Brown, and had at that time no political connection with him. He and his friends had no further connection with him than that they knew who George Brown was, and what his position was in Canada. A man of his indomitable energy, great ability, and large political influence in Canada, could not but throw his shadow as far as Nova Scotia; but that was all, and long before he (Mr. Howe) knew what Mr. Brown's fate would be at his election, he had defined his own position. As to overtures to or from gentlemen opposite, they had treated himself and the other gentlemen from Nova Scotia with that frank courtesy and hospitality that was due by gentlemen to strangers, but they had not approached them with any offer or overture. They knew that the members from Nova Scotia, having put their hands to the plough, could not then turn back, and that until this controversy was fought out not a man of them could accept without dishonour any such offer, and they had consequently respected their position. He then adverted to Dr. Tupper's argument that North-West extension was necessary for the protection of our rights. Our rights hitherto had been perfectly secure, and he (Mr. Howe) believed the further our territory was extended the more our political rights and security of our country would be endangered. As regarded his argument that it would encourage immigration, he thought it absurd. Was there not land and employment and bread in Canada to attract immigrants? Had it not been proclaimed that our great want was population, and were we to be at great expense to get new lands in order to fill them by depopulating the country within the proper bounds of the Dominion? The honourable member from Cumberland, without any knowledge of finance, had taken it for granted that Nova Scotia had largely drawn from the treasury of the Dominion. It should be remembered that when Nova Scotia went into the Union, her debt was set down at eight millions, though she did not really owe that amount. She was therefore entitled to draw from the treasury of the Dominion any sum her debt was less than eight millions. If the honourable gentleman would take the trouble to examine what has been paid and what has been received by the Dominion since 1st July upon revenue account, he would find the Dominion owes Nova Scotia at this moment \$152,000. He had been charged with belittling the strength of the Dominion, and advertising its feebleness. He might be allowed to say

[Mr. Howe (Hants)]

that his whole life had been spent in endeavouring to elevate these Provinces—in vindicating as far as he was able when opportunity presented, the honour and manliness of his fellow subjects. He would tell the honourable gentleman (Dr. Tupper) that if the spirit in which his remarks were made should pervade the House, and if his counsels were taken, he might inflame and aggravate the forces which at this moment were subject of serious thought to every member of this Parliament, and which would go to weaken the Dominion. Whatever might become of the measure before the House, he trusted that the debate would be conducted with that calm and honourable spirit which became an assembly such as this.

Mr. Dunkin said that the question before the House had nothing to do with the domestic policy of Nova Scotia. It was simply a question whether we should have those territories now or never. Refusal to take possession of that country now would to all intents and purposes, be a refusal to take possession of it for all time to come. We must look at the consequences of our saying no, as well as the consequence of our saying yes. The opening up of this country was as much a part of the policy inaugurated in the Quebec Conference as the building of the Intercolonial Railway. He was willing to admit that there was a time when a different solution of this question was possible, but we halted then, and that opportunity was lost. Whatever the terms were upon which they proposed to receive this territory, they were not called upon to bear the whole expense of defending it. The Mother country would be still bound, and he believed would be willing to back us up with her whole strength. Why was delay asked? It seemed to spring from an unworthy suspicion, not to say fear, that England did not mean to take care of us, but was asking by this means to throw us off. Such suspicion was unfounded. True, there was a school of politicians in England who desired to throw off her colonies, and if we refused to take possession of this territory we would be playing into their hands. If that territory was worth anything to any one, it was of worth to Canada, and if she refused to have anything to do with it, it might be said with some show of plausibility that it was worth less to England. The people of Canada had more at stake in the matter than had England. The people of Canada were better qualified to deal with the question than the people of England. Let Canada take possession of this territory, open it up for settlement, develop