

On the same occasion, the Marquis of Normanby said — “ If the North American Colonies feel themselves able to stand alone, and shew their anxiety either to form themselves into an independent country, or even *to amalgamate with the United States*, I think it would not be wise to resist that desire.”

John Bright, “our friend, and the world’s friend,” whose prophecies have been so often fulfilled in the administrative economy of England, and who will have a controlling influence in all that affects the future policy of the present British Government, uttered these memorable words on the floors of the British House of Parliament: “Your scheme [of Confederation] must break down if the Nova Scotians resolve they will not have it. . . . It is not possible to coerce them. . . . There is no statesman living in England who will venture to bring about the shedding of one drop of blood upon that continent.”

No such language as this cheered on the Colonists of 1774. No nation of freemen stood ready to shield them from oppression by the enunciations of a “Monroe doctrine.” No hope was there for them except in the strength of their own right hand.

Corresponding to the “history repeating itself” upon this Continent, is in some measure, the signs and utterances of the press. The “Case” of Nova Scotia, prepared by the delegates from this province for the examination of the British Government, is, as Mr. Howe says, “unanswerable.” The “Protest,” not to enumerate the Petitions and Letters which preceded it, had all the dignified appositeness, and indignant fervor, of any document of early continental days. Despite Mr. Howe’s late essays to quiet the storm of antipathy which he had excited all over this province against British and Canadian rule (with some at present incomprehensible but suspicious purpose in view\*) he has had to acknowledge how wide-spread is the disaffection of the people—how imminent “the perils” of their determination to connect themselves with the United States. One Governor Hutchinson, with all the antecedents of popularity and talent in Mr. Howe, played a not dissimilar part in the early days

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\* While the concluding pages of this pamphlet were in the hands of the Printer, the following telegram announced how well-founded were the suspicions of the writer:—“MONTREAL, Jan. 30, 1869.—At Ottawa, to-day, the Hon. Joseph Howe was sworn into office as President of the Privy Council—an office which has been vacant since the death of the Hon. A. J. F. Blair.”