

*Suppose
exchange of letters in
our shovels day
is Bessie would send
w/ federation*

room for a brilliant and resourceful general in the army opposed to Confederation. With characteristic energy and convincing eloquence he threw himself into the fight, and might in the end have defeated the cause of union had there not been opposed to him an overwhelming body of public opinion, or at any rate of the leaders of public opinion, on both sides of the Atlantic, determined to unite the scattered colonies of British North America. ✓

The League of the Maritime Provinces was organized at Halifax in the summer of 1866. The name is something of a misnomer, as the membership of the League was confined to Nova Scotia, and largely to Halifax. The Constitution is interesting as setting forth the grounds of opposition to Confederation. Its language suggests pretty conclusively that it was the work of Joseph Howe. The text will be found in the Appendix.

Joseph Howe, Hugh McDonald and William Annand were appointed delegates of the League, to oppose in England the passage of the Imperial statute sanctioning the proposed union of the Colonies. Howe and Annand sailed early in July. McDonald followed later. The Confederation delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick reached London about the end of July. Their colleagues from Canada did not, however, arrive until the middle of November. Howe therefore had at least five months in which to work up public sentiment in England against the union, and he used his opportunity to the best possible advantage, as his letters show. Annand seconded his efforts in every way, and when McDonald arrived he too threw himself into the fight. Their principal opponents were Tupper and Jonathan McCully of the Nova Scotia delegation, and before long most of the great London and provincial newspapers were drawn into the controversy on one side or the other. In September Howe issued a pamphlet on "Confederation considered in relation to the Interests of the Empire." Tupper published a reply in which with telling effect he set Howe against Howe, quoting passage after passage from speeches in which Howe had urged the advantages of Confederation. Annand replied to Tupper's pamphlet, McCully did his best to demolish Annand's arguments, and McDonald attacked McCully. So the war of words went merrily forward, no doubt to the edification of the small group of Englishmen who at that time were mildly interested in the affairs of the Colonies.

The delegates of the League remained in England until April, 1867, when, having fought Confederation to the last ditch, and lost the battle, they returned to Halifax. The British North America Act had been finally passed on the 29th March.