

as the next best scheme—a Federal Union. He speaks of it now as a tentative towards annexation and, strange contradiction, as a threat to the United States. If it is the first step towards annexation how is it that every annexationist is opposed to it; that it is sneered at and denounced by the U. S. papers; that the whole influence of the U. S. Consul's party is against it?

Now, to assert that Mr. Howe is not a loyal man would be a falsehood. I believe him to be one of the most loyal men in the province, and more, that he is a most disinterested man in all matters of property. But in any matter of political credit or ambition no man could be more grasping. Proud of his great natural gifts he is a disappointed man, and with reason. No mark of imperial favor has been bestowed on him. The Commission of the Fisheries was a local matter to the governorships betowed on men vastly his inferiors, like Daly and Hincks. Forty years of politics have done their work—years of canvassing, of agitation, of quarrels with governors and men in authority. Aiming to be the "people's man," he has not overcome that wildness of statement and fervour of imagination which so weigh with popular assemblies. This scheme of Federal Union was put before the public by a body in which he, being Imperial Commissioner, could have no seat, and in which a seat had been refused to his mouthpiece, Mr. Annand. The dream of his life is near being realized, and he has had no hand in it. It is not surprising then that it should meet with his opposition.

Never, even in the hottest of Mr. Howe's diatribes, did the fervour of his eloquence lead him into so many contradictions and rash statements as now in his recent pamphlet. The scheme of Confederation is misrepresented from its inception. The English public is asked to condemn it as one of "spoliation and robbery"—it is "Schleswig-Holstein," "an oppression," a scheme "forced on an unwilling people." Yet it is true that all the Canadians have done was to go down to Charlottetown, where the Maritime Provinces were debating a smaller union, and ask them to consider a union of all British North America. Delegates then met, appointed from both political parties in all the colonies, the plan of union was adopted, and all that has been done since has

been done by a majority of their various legislatures. The plan had come even in the very way Mr. Howe used to desire, viz., "the project of union has come from the other colonies." He has now the assurance he so longed for—"I should like of all things to be assured the French-Canadians favoured a union." Now that Mr. Howe has another object, he systematically underrates the resources of Canada; but his language hitherto has invariably been, "that noble province," "that magnificent province"—"one of the noblest countries it has ever been my good fortune to behold." "Of vast proportions, boundless resources, and surpassing beauty:" travelling through which you feel "that Canada must become a great nation;" and that in 1839, when Canada was an infant to what she is now. He makes the most of a deficiency which, during the last year, has been caused by preparations against Fenian raids; excites English prejudice by allusion to the Canadian tariff, which is now very little higher than that of Nova Scotia; and finally settles our province by exulting that she possesses no coal—forgetting to remark that the unparalleled water power of Canada affords facilities for manufacture unequalled in the world.

But, as Mr. Howe goes on, he is still more contradictory. He draws a lively picture of a Canadian "dead-lock," and then speaks of the Lower Provinces being swallowed up in a larger assemblage. Can he not see that, if this be true, the Lower Provinces must hold the balance of power? and, moreover, would Nova Scotia be as much swallowed up there as if she returned two members to the Imperial Parliament? Listen to Mr. Howe, when at Montreal, describing the rivalries of races:

"We Anglo-Saxons, proud of our race, are too apt to forget how largely the Norman-French element entered into its composition. Gradually the distinctions faded, and out of a common ancestry came that new race which has given laws and civilization to the world. So it will be here. Sprung from two of the foremost nations of the earth, speaking two noble languages, who doubts that a race will grow up in North America equal to the requirements of their country, and proud of the great families from which they sprung."

Nothing strikes one more in perusing his pamphlet than the stress laid on the loyalty