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*Joseph Howe and the Anti-Confederation League.*

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY BY  
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INTRODUCTION.

Shortly before his death Sir Robert Weatherbe wrote the present writer that he had in his possession a series of letters addressed by Joseph Howe to William J. Stairs, relating to the Anti-Confederation Movement. He thought of editing these letters, and asked advice as to the most suitable means of publication. It was suggested that they might be submitted as a paper to The Royal Society, and published in the Transactions. Unfortunately Sir Robert Weatherbe did not live to carry out his idea. As one who had been Joint Secretary of the League of the Maritime Provinces, of which Howe was President and Stairs one of the Vice-Presidents, and who had been on terms of intimacy with all the principal actors in the Anti-Confederation Movement, he would have been an ideal editor of such a series of letters. The present writer, with Lady Weatherbe's consent, undertook the task. Although conscious enough that at best he could offer only a very poor substitute for the paper Sir Robert Weatherbe would have produced, he felt that these letters of Joseph Howe were too important to remain in obscurity, particularly at a time when Canadians were preparing to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the Dominion. In the notes appended to the letters an effort has been made to identify names and incidents that were more familiar to Howe's contemporaries than they are to Canadians of the present generation.

So far as the life of Joseph Howe is concerned, nothing need be said here that does not relate to his connection with the movement in Nova Scotia to defeat the Confederation project, at least so far as that province was concerned. Nothing approaching a complete biography of the great Nova Scotian has yet been written; but the main facts of his life, and at least some ideas as to his complex character, may be