

similar to that of O'CConnell? He was sincerely desirous of affecting the repeal of the union between England and Ireland, and, as you know, spared no effort for that purpose. But he did not stand aloof in Parliament. On the contrary, while still preserving his opinions as to repeal, he gave a general support to the administration of the day, and thereby secured for himself a potential voice in the administration of Irish affairs. At present matters stand thus:—The Canadian Government must either act without advice from Nova Scotia (which is of course inadvisable) or consult with those who, it is stated, have not the confidence of the majority of the people, which continues the irritation now existing.

Let me urge upon you to put an end to this unfortunate state of things. In the hope that this might soon be the case, the Canadian Government has, as much as possible without injury to the public service, postponed filling up the more important offices connected with Nova Scotia, and will continue to do so, although these delays are made causes of attack upon us for neglect of our duties.

I write with the approbation and concurrence of my colleagues, and this letter, although marked "private," and not to be used as an official document, can be shown by you to any friends that you think proper.

Believe me, &c. &c.

(Signed)

JOHN A. MACDONALD.

THE HON. JOSEPH HOWE,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX, 21st October, 1868.

MY DEAR SIR JOHN,—Your Letter of the 6th inst. reached me a few days ago. I at once informed Mr. Annand of its arrival, but did not ask him to read it, or to compromise himself or his colleagues by taking part in the Correspondence. The Members of the Local Government and Legislature have already, as you are aware, re-asserted their determination to obtain the Repeal of the British North American Act, and have sent forward their Resolutions and Minute of Council. They are hopeful that the new Parliament will do to Nova Scotia more substantial justice than the old, and, when the Elections are over, may despatch another Petition and Delegation to England. Heartily desiring, as I do, the repeal of the Act, I must confess that I am less sanguine. I used to believe that in a case involving vested interests, Constitutional rights, and great sums of money, British Statesmen and Legislators would do justice, though the Heavens should fall. With deep sorrow, and a sense of humiliation not easily described, I now am compelled to acknowledge that I have cherished a delusion.

Whether it be that the British Ministers yield to the representations of the Governor General, and to the paramount influence of Canada, or sincerely believe that the interests of the Empire are, in some mysterious way, which I cannot discover, bound up with this Confederation; or whether, as I shrewdly suspect, the men who represent the Railway and Financial interests to be affected by this measure, dominate and control