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## WHY JOSEPH HOWE DID NOT ATTEND CONFERENCE AT CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

From Halifax Herald.

To the Editor of the "Herald":

Sir,—Your correspondent "Student" in the "Herald" of 20th instant, thinks Rev. Dr. Saunders is called upon to prove that Joseph Howe was invited to be present at the Charlottetown convention of 1864 when the question of maritime union was discussed and became merged in the larger question of British North American union on the arrival of members of the Canadian executive, headed by John A. Macdonald. "Student" says "the belief is that he was not."

What took place I may be allowed to state, without at all presuming to forestall Dr. Saunders' explanation, which may be fuller than the one I think sufficient from my point of view for present purposes.

Hon. Mr. Howe was, at the time, (1864), an imperial officer. In this capacity he visited the United States and in the month of June, 1864, he was engaged in Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, and in going to Washington to pay his respects to his official head on this side of the water—Lord Lyons—to have the benefit of his lordship's counsel and instructions. Of course, Mr. Howe could not, in these circumstances, keep track of general movements in Nova Scotia. He was moving about too rapidly and too much occupied.

After his return to Halifax (July 9), he was invited to Government House by the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell, and informed that arrangements were about concluded for holding a conference at Charlottetown to consider the desirability of forming a union of the Maritime Provinces, and that his (Sir Richard's) government and himself wished to include him in the commission. Mr. Howe was reluctantly compelled to decline—reluctantly, I say, because (1) he himself had issued the circular to the governments of the other provinces, which preceded the resolution of the Nova Scotia Legislature subsequently passed, empowering the Tupper Government to send a delegation to Charlottetown; and (2), because I know that this was the frame of his mind in considering the proposal made to him by the governor.

He had two reasons for declining:

(1) Because Sir James Hope, the admiral on the station, had completed arrangements for the speedy departure of H.M.S. "Lily," the gunboat detailed for service in the northern fisheries division of his command, and in this vessel Mr. Howe was, it had been arranged, to sail on his official visit to Newfoundland. Owing to the time of year, the "Lily" had to be in Newfoundland waters as soon as possible, lest international complications of a serious nature should ensue from her absence.

(2) Mr. Howe's second reason was that he could not obtain the consent of the Foreign Office, to which he was directly responsible, in time (there were then no Atlantic cables in operation) and his orders were to proceed to Newfoundland that summer.

Dr. Tupper, learning from the governor of the lack of success that had attended his effort to secure Mr. Howe's aid, did not give up the idea. His bull-dog persistency would not permit that. No doubt efforts of different kinds had been made in the interval to persuade Howe to reconsider his decision as given in the preliminary effort of the governor. However that may be, Dr. Tupper wrote a letter to Howe dated August 16th. I kept a copy of it, and of Mr. Howe's reply, and Sir Charles, knowing that,

on May 7th, 1903, wrote to me: "Please do not forget to send me a copy of my letter inviting Mr. Howe to go on the delegation to the conference at Charlottetown, and his reply." The letter inviting Mr. Howe and his reply were published by Sir Charles in the Halifax "Evening Mail" of January 3rd, 1906.

A perusal will show (1) that on August 16th, Dr. Tupper, as a last and final effort, urged upon Mr. Howe to become one of the delegates to the conference, which was to meet on 1st September following.

(2) That Mr. Howe gladly would have attended if he could and promised, or rather suggested, that he would do so if the conference could be put off till October.

As all arrangements had been made between the several governments interested, it was felt that it would be impossible to delay action. So Mr. Howe sailed off on the 17th of August, writing his answer on board of the "Lily," and did not return to Halifax till after the seventy-two resolutions had been agreed to in the Quebec conference.

While making this statement in the interests of historical accuracy, I do not wish to be understood as in any way reflecting upon Mr. Howe's subsequent action, for which I believe he had sufficient justification to relieve his memory from any of the charges of want of prevision as a great statesman, or of personal self-seeking or other dishonourable motives which have been attributed to him during this portion of his career as a public man.

Properly understood, Mr. Howe's course through all the exciting confederation agitation beginning in 1864 and ending with his election in Hants County in 1869, was consistent with the great principles which he had adopted in his early political life.

This, I say, though I supported confederation from first to last in the columns of the "Reporter," of which paper I was editor during the confederation struggle, and perhaps sometimes wrote things which I should regret, as now, in the evening of my days, I look back upon that great struggle. Of one fact I am proud, and that is that Mr. Howe invited me to accompany him during his election campaign in 1869, expressing to me his feeling that during the struggle of 1864-67, I had not indulged towards him, at least, in the personal abuse too much in vogue in the newspapers of that period and in the use of which I was as great a sinner as any of my confederates.

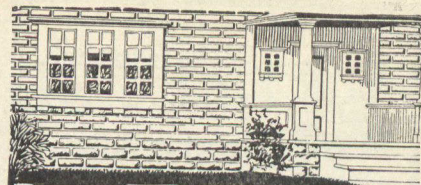
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ORIGINAL "SAM SLICK" DEAD.

A DESPATCH from Bangor, Maine, to the Montreal "Star" states: Jackson Young, known throughout New England as the original of "Sam Slick, the Yankee Clock-maker," written by Judge Thomas Chandler Haliburton, is dead here, aged 87 years. He is survived by his wife, who is 87 years old.

Mr. Young was one of four brothers who came to Maine from Vermont and travelled the State selling Yankee notions in peddlers' carts. Later they took up the clock business, and thousands of the old-fashioned brass clocks still doing duty in the farm-houses of Maine and the provinces were bought from the Young brothers.

Samuel J. Young was the last survivor of the four, the others of whom became millionaires in Western and Canadian lumbering and lands, all getting their start from peddling clocks.



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