

and "Morning Chronicle," and I must confess that if I have been impressed in favour of Confederation it has been from perusing the able and eloquent writings and speeches of Mr. Howe on the subject. Mr. Howe's opposition cannot now effect anything, he cannot wipe away the principles to establish which he has devoted his whole public life. It will be remembered that, some time ago, he wrote a letter denying that he had written anything on the subject of Confederation.

Now I have always entertained the opinion that he has been opposing the scheme from its very inception by the present government. I have read his productions so long, that I can detect them anywhere. If he would come out under his own name, and oppose the scheme fairly and honorably, I would respect him much more than I can possibly under present circumstances. He said he had not written a line to any one, except to his wife. A gentleman told me that he saw an article that was corrected by Mr. Howe's own hand; and yet a short time before he published a letter in "The Reporter" which was copied generally by the press, stating that he had not written an article for several months. I received a letter last night from a friend of mine in the country, who writes that he hopes the House will adopt Confederation. He is one of the most influential men in my own county, and has been an admirer of Mr. Howe, but he speaks in the strongest terms against the course pursued by that gentleman on this question. I met a gentleman last night from Cornwallis, and I asked him what was the feeling in Kings. "Mr. Howe has done two things," was the reply; "he has cemented the Conservatives to a man, and has divided the progressive Liberals from those who are opposed to union and progress."

As respects the hon. member for East Halifax, he has been on both sides of this question. He puts me in mind of the boy who complained to his mother that Bill took all his portion of the bed out of the middle, and he had to lie on both sides. I regret that he should have introduced into this debate the reference he made to the Queen, to the representative of Majesty, and to hon. Geo. Brown. It is not necessary to refer to the papers that support Confederation. It has been said that clergymen have no right to deal with matters like this. Clergymen, I contend, exercise their legitimate functions when they instruct their people in an important crisis. Therefore I believe that the religious press is only performing its duty in discussing this question and advising the people on the subject. Temperate and argumentative articles have appeared in its columns, and no fault can be found with it for pursuing this course. As respects the secular press, the weight of authority is in favor of Confederation. The only influential press that opposes the measure is the Chronicle, and we all know the inconsistent and extraordinary course it has pursued. Therefore, whether you take the leading presses or the ablest minds in the country, you find the overwhelming weight of authority in favor of Confederation.

I have had consultation with many leading men in my own County and they have said that

they believe the time has come to adopt Union.—As respects the question of an appeal to the people, that has been very effectually settled by Mr. Blanchard and the circumstance which was brought to the notice of the House by the hon. member for Guysboro does not apply at all. Mr. Johnston succeeded after a great deal of exertion, in passing the Municipal Incorporation Bill through the Legislature, but it was with the proviso that it should be left to the acceptance or rejection by the people. That was the clog put on it by the Liberal Government. The only two Wards in Kings that adopted it were those where meetings were held and the question was fully discussed. An important change took place some years ago in reference to Government when the Departmental System was introduced. I do not remember that it was submitted to the polls. I believe the people's representatives have the right to judge of the matter themselves. It will be remembered that the *Morning Chronicle's* second exposition of a well known despatch from the Col. Secretary was, that it meant "the well understood wishes of the educated portion of the people as expressed by their representatives." Assuming this to be correct, I think it would be found that if the present question was submitted to the polls, we would not get "the well understood wishes" of the more intelligent portion of the community, as this question would be mixed up with the school bill, and other matters connected with the government of the day. I believe the people have the right, not only to discuss questions of public policy at meetings held for that purpose, but they have the right of petitioning. I see by the papers that they have been holding a meeting at Canning for the purpose of discussing this question. This is not the first one held there. Being a native of the County I represent, and for upwards of thirty years a practitioner of medicine in Canning and vicinity, I ought to know the people pretty well, and while I must acknowledge having received a great deal of kindness and professional support there, as well as having very warm political supporters, there is no place in the North Riding where political feelings are carried to a greater extent than in Canning, and consequently where I have stronger political opponents. There is no difficulty at any time in getting up a political meeting in Canning, especially when the subject appears to affect party interests. I believe this meeting was suggested by parties in Halifax for the purpose of influencing the votes of the members for North Kings on the subject of Confederation. I have some knowledge of the mode of getting up and circulating petitions, and do not think that petitions can always be looked upon as the exact exponent of public sentiment. Many persons are careless about the matter and allow their names to be placed there without considering the subject, especially when no pecuniary interests are at stake.

New Brunswick has been referred to in this debate. All I can say is there has been a great change in the public sentiment of that Province since the election a year ago. Every constituency that has since been opened has returned a Con-