

rebel," at this moment occupies a position as one of the most distinguished statesmen of British North America. I speak of the Hon. D'Arcy McGee, a gentleman who possesses the finest mind, the most wonderful eloquence, the most facile pen, and who has devoted all the powers of his mind, all the influence of his position, during the past ten years, to the work of uniting, consolidating, and strengthening the people and resources of British North America. Can the hon member designate in no other style the man whom her Majesty the Queen and her ministers have delighted to honour, who, whatever the indiscretions of his youth may have been, has devoted himself in British North America to speak down and write down the antagonisms of race and of religion, and has contributed more than any other to unite the friends of British rule in these colonies. What was the language of Mr. Howe when this eminent statesman came among us in 1863? He visited this city year after year, and exercised his talents, as he has always done in Canada, for the elevation of our common country. He came on an invitation to Halifax and delivered an address in Temperance Hall on the union of British North America, and what was the opinion of Mr. Howe, as expressed on that occasion, of the man who came to this House and pledged his public reputation to the declaration that so great was the advantages of union that the Legislature ought to move in the matter for the purpose of bringing it to a happy consummation. Mr. Howe rose and seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. McGee in these words, as reported at the time:—

"Mr. Howe went on to remark that it would be injustice to the lecturer to say more, further than he was with him in all he said. He was for a Union of all the British North American Provinces, but he was for an Intercolonial Railroad first. Then the road would bring about the Union. It would enable the Canadians to see our faces, to become familiar with us, and to see the number of 1000 ton-ships which we were building, which with our other wealth and resources, we are willing to throw into the one great stock. He thought a Union should not be delayed till we had drifted into difficulties. How short sighted were the English statesmen of old who lost them the thirteen States, when the difficulty could have been arranged in a month, the horrors of the Revolutionary war prevented, and all our race living at peace and harmony at present without the bickering and animosity which prevail in their midst. Talk of the fall of Quebec being a source of sorrow to the inhabitants of this Province. It would be more. If the St. Lawrence were in the hands of our enemies, we should be compelled to beg permission to tear down the British flag. What he wished for Nova Scotia was that she may be the frontage of a mighty Colony; upon which it may be truly said the sun never sets. No man can look upon Halifax and its environs, its harbour, its citadel and say it was made for this Province alone."

"The United States has drifted into a civil war; and we may drift into a tight place from which it will be difficult to extricate ourselves. The States might assail us; but if we had a railway by which troops could be sent from Quebec or other military stations to the threatened point, we would be saved. Mr. Howe said, that he hoped when Mr. McGee returned to Canada he would be able to say, 'I have been down among those people who live on fish and lobsters, and there I seen keen politicians bickering upon small topics, but when the great subject of national union was brought before them then all minor difference was disregarded, and if, and them uniting and pushing and cheering me on in this labor of love.'"

On that occasion, therefore, Mr. Howe stood forth to endorse everything that Mr. McGee had stated in reference to this great question of intercolonial Union. Did the man who stood then, as he does now, at Mr. Howe's back, call the scheme of Union a snare and a delusion? No, he stood there to publish those sentiments of Mr. Howe in his own paper, for the purpose of proving that that gentleman was a far-seeing patriot, who recognized the position which British North America must occupy, and the measures that were necessary to her security. But that is not all. In 1864, subsequent to my having carried a resolution in this House in favor of a Legislative union of the Maritime Colonies, a visit was made to this Province by a large deputation of Canadians, headed by Mr. McGee, upon the invitation of prominent merchants of this city, who came forward and contributed their means towards receiving their guests, and declaring by a resolution that it was of the greatest commercial and political importance that there should be a closer union between Nova Scotia and Canada. A splendid banquet was given on that occasion in the Atrium shed to our visitors, and Mr. Howe was present to declare that no change had taken place in his views since in Temperance Hall he stood forward and endorsed the opinions expressed by Mr. McGee. It will be remembered, that previous to this time the Government of Canada had re-organized on the basis of endeavoring to obtain a federal union of British North America; and Mr. McGee was present as the exponent of that policy. I spoke on that occasion, and expressed the delight with which I had witnessed the political coalition in Canada, and the hope it gave me that when Cartier and Brown were rowing in the same boat to the tune of "Row, Brothers, Row," the result would be a Union of British North America. It was known, at the same time, I may here say, for it had been announced in Parliament that Canada was about to send a deputation to the Maritime Convention to be held at Charlottetown, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the larger Union could not be carried out. I shall now quote from the remarks that were made by Mr. Howe on the occasion in question, as given by the *Sun* newspaper which is now engaged in aspersing the character of public men more consistently than themselves upon this question of Union. The *Sun* says:—

"Hon. Mr. Howe was received with most hearty cheers. His speech was short and appropriate. He was no stranger among them. His voice had been heard in almost every town in the Provinces of British America, and would again if occasion required it; and he was in hopes of yet seeing the dream of his boyhood realized—the Union of these Provinces in one great federation under the old flag of England, an event which he hoped was at no distant date. We are sorry that our space will not allow us to give this gentleman's remarks at greater length."

Now what next? The government invited Mr. Howe as the exponent of a large portion of the public sentiment of this country to go upon the Delegation. He told me, as I have stated in his presence, that if there was any great work in which his services were required he was ready to give us his assistance; and accordingly we invited him, and his reply is on the journals of this House. That invitation remember, was tendered after he was aware of the Canadian policy of extending the Union to all the Provinces—after he had endorsed that policy by saying he hoped Union would be secured. Deeply do I deplore that Mr. Howe was unable to attend on that occasion, for I believe that the difficulties and embarrassments that the friends of British American Union have had to encounter in dealing with this great question arose in a large measure from the fact that they were deprived at the Conference of Mr. Howe's services. I am only repeating that which we hear from the warmest friends he has in this Province, that if he had attended at the Convention there would not be a man who would be more enthusiastic in pressing forward this great scheme than himself. However, he addressed me a letter in which he expressed his deep regret that he could not at-