

leaf of which the reader will find that Mr. Howe's claim to position in this country has been largely rested upon the fact that at all times and on all occasions he advocated the great question of union; but I may trouble the House to read two passages, which, I am sure, will convince the intelligent people of this country that Mr. Howe has pledged himself to the Confederation of the Provinces. I shall refer to a public letter written by him as far back as 1849, when the British American League, of which Hon. George Moffat was Chairman, undertook to suggest important constitutional changes. Mr. Moffat was under the impression that it was a legitimate course of dealing with questions of great public import for public assemblages to be called together, and for the people at public meetings to express their sentiments; but what did the present champion of the people's rights say—the man who has presented himself in London as the exponent of the public sentiment of this country because he has held some public meetings and got up a few petitions? He wrote a letter in 1849 to the President of the League, in which he dilated on the impropriety of any public man undertaking to deal with great public questions in any other place except in the legislature of his country, and when he was clothed with constitutional authority. Here is the letter written under his own hand in which he condemns such public assemblages as he has held in this Province.

"A Confederation of the Colonies may be the desire of your Convention. If so, the object is legitimate; but it must be pursued by legitimate means. Believe me, it can only be wisely attained by and through the Provincial Legislatures, not by self elected societies acting independently and in defiance of them. Suppose to-morrow propositions were submitted to the Lower Colonies for a Legislative Union or general Confederation. If made by the Government and Parliament of Canada, they would be treated with deference and respect. If made by a party in opposition, they would not be for a moment entertained."

Here you find Mr. Howe telling the President of one of the most important conventions that ever assembled in Canada, that the course he was pursuing was improper—that he had no right to deal with such matters outside of Parliament. This is the same man who has been perambulating the Province, and undertaking to say that in this free country, where we have been entrusted with British institutions by which the public sentiment can be legitimately expressed, what was the legitimate mode in 1849 should no longer be pursued in 1867. In the paragraph I have read you find the most unqualified contempt heaped upon the course which himself and the gentlemen associated with him have pursued. Having shewn you his opinion as to the mode in which this measure should be treated, let me now explain to you the origin of the phrase "new nationality," so often quoted in the discussion of this question. If we go back to 1849, we actually find that the phrase originated with no less a person than Joseph Howe. In the same letter to the

President of the British American League, he said:

"We desire free trade among all the Provinces, under one national flag, with one coin, one measure, one tariff, one post office. We feel that the courts, the press, the educational institutions of North America would be elevated by union; that intercommunication by railroads, telegraphs and steamboats would be promoted; and that if such a combination of interests were achieved wisely, and with proper guards, the foundations of a great nation in friendly connection with the mother country would be laid on an indestructible basis."

If in 1849 British America could aspire to a national flag, are not these Provinces at the present day equally qualified to have a common flag? Sir, in this year of 1867 his successors have accomplished that which with him was only an idea and a dream, and instead of receiving from himself and his friends that praise and encouragement to which we are entitled, we are attacked for having adopted those principles thus early propounded and thus strongly advocated through his entire life, as traitors to the constitution of our country, and as having forgotten what we owe to our own people. Let me turn again to his statement in 1851 when the question of union came before the Legislature on a resolution moved by Mr. Johnston, his public opponent, and when, with his incapacity to follow any one but himself, he propounded his views on the organization of the Empire; but did he say anything in favour of a Confederation? Read his speech, and you will find him dealing with the question in terms of the most fervid eloquence. He then propounded what he considered the best scheme viz., representation in the Imperial Parliament; but if he could not get that, then he would propose this:—

"By a Federal Union of the Colonies we should have something like the neighboring republic; and if I saw nothing better, I should say at once, let us keep our local Legislatures, and have a President and central Congress for all the higher and more external relations of the united Provinces. * * * Under a Federal Union we should form a large and prosperous nation, lying between the other two branches of the British family, and our duty would evidently be to keep them both at peace."

Now I ask the hon. member opposite if, with these documents published to the world under his own signature he is still ready to tell the people of Nova Scotia that Mr. Howe has never advocated a Federal Union of the Provinces?

But the hon. member for North Colchester (Mr. McLellan) undertook to prove to this House the extraordinary proposition that, when Mr. Howe, as a public man, moved a resolution in this Legislature declaring that so great were the advantages of Union between this Province and Canada, that he asked for authority to hold a conference on the subject, all he really desired was to get rid of the question altogether—that at the conference the matter was found entirely impracticable, and was accordingly set at rest as it was intended to be. I have heard a good