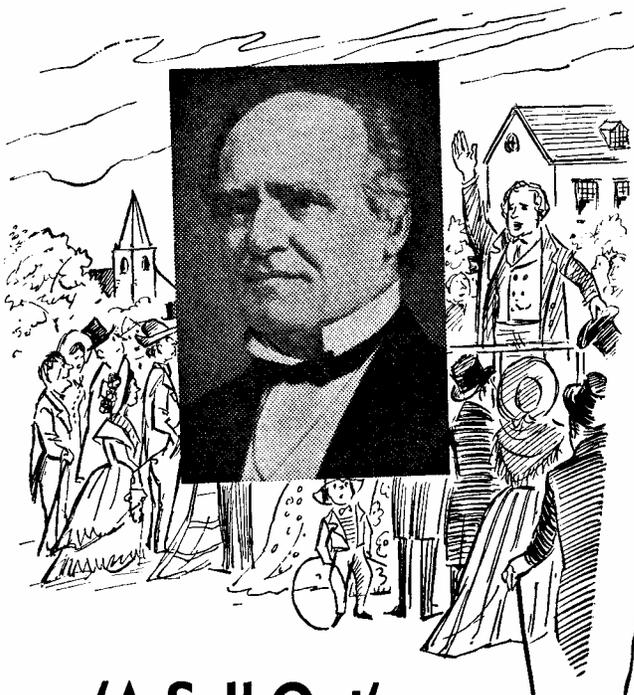


FAMOUS LETTERS IN CANADIAN HISTORY

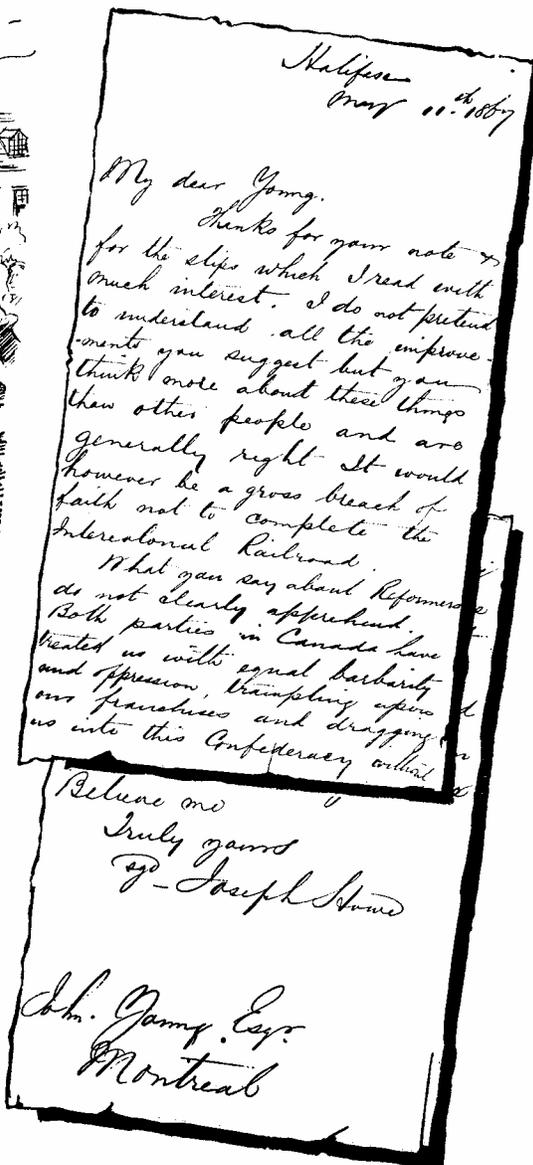


'A Sell-Out'

Confederation was a sell-out of Nova Scotia, cried Joseph Howe, the most eloquent voice in the Maritimes.

In this letter, written to a Montreal colleague just two months before Canada was born, Mr. Howe flails representatives of both political parties for their role in bringing on a union of the Atlantic provinces with the two Canadas.

But Mr. Howe, like other equally outspoken opponents of the union such as John Sandfield Macdonald, the first premier of Ontario, was later to lend his full support in making Confederation work.



Joseph Howe Says Union a Betrayal

Halifax, May 11th, 1867.

My dear Young:

Thanks for your note and for the slips which I read with much interest. I do not pretend to understand all the improvements you suggest but you think more about these things than other people and are generally right.

It would be a gross breach of faith not to complete the intercolonial railroad.

What you say about the reformers I do not clearly apprehend. Both parties in Canada have treated us with equal barbarity and oppression, trampling upon our franchises and dragging us into this confederacy without our

consent . . . We must submit of course because we cannot fight the British Government but if the Queen's troops were withdrawn I would die upon the frontier rather than submit to such an outrage.

Our first duty will be to punish the rascals here who have betrayed and sold us. If then convinced that Canadians are disposed to act fairly we may try the experiment and endeavor to work the new system. . . .

Believe me,
Truly yours,

JOSEPH HOWE.