

49. As the Confederation of the British Provinces of North America is the great event of recent times in Canada, the history of the genesis and development of the idea is here given :—

ORDER.	ACTION.	DATE.
1st.	Sir Francis Nicholson propounded the idea for this continent. (His project was to unite all the Anglo-American Colonies in a union, the object of which was the defence of these colonies against the encroachment of the French on the north, and against the hostile Indians on the borders. . . . .	1690
2nd.	Pownal, Hutchinson and Franklin proposed Confederation for the British possessions in North America. . . . .	1754-55
3rd.	William Smith proposed a plan of Union but was banished and came to Canada as a refugee Loyalist. He became Chief Justice of Canada and was the grandfather of Confederation. . . . .	1775
4th.	Colonel Morse proposed a Union of all British North America "for the preservation of the fragments of British power on this Continent." . . . .	1784
5th.	R. J. Uniacke, in the Legislature of Nova Scotia, advocated a Federal Union. . . . .	1809
6th.	Chief Justice Sewell propounded to His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent a scheme for a Federal Union of the Provinces. [The Chief Justice's proposal included a general representative assembly to consist of 30 members. In his reply to the Chief Justice, His Royal Highness (our Queen's father) suggested that there should be but two divisions for local government purposes, one to consist of the two Canadas and the other of the four Maritime Provinces, which should, he thought, be formed into one union as preliminary to the greater union. The Duke was the first to suggest a Maritime Union. The Capital of the two Canadas for local purposes should be Montreal, he thought, and that of the four Maritime provinces, either Annapolis Royal or Windsor, as would prove most convenient. Quebec city was, of course, to be the capital of the Federation. ] . . . . .	1814
7th.	Chief Justice Sewell and Messrs. Robinson & Strachan prepared and presented, in pamphlet, to the British Government, a scheme for a Federal Union of the Provinces. (Chief Justice Sewell married a daughter of Chief Justice Smith, and was largely influenced by Smith.) . . . . .	1822
8th.	Neilson's <i>Gazette</i> , May 11th, 1824, published a rumour in circulation in Quebec that His Majesty's Ministers proposed to submit to Parliament a Union of all the British Provinces in North America. The <i>Canadian Spectator</i> , Nov. 6, mentions that a letter had been received from England, stating that "a system of Confederation of the B. N. A. provinces is on the anvil." . . . .	1824
9th.	Mr. McCulloch, then publishing the Montreal <i>Free Press</i> , advocated in its columns a Federal Union as a "Stock" subject for Editorial work. . . . .	1825
10th.	Robert Gourlay, wrote, in advocacy of a Federal Union, a pamphlet. (Gourlay was in prison in London, owing to an assault on a Member of Parliament in connection with grievances against Canada. He wrote from "House of Correction, Cold Bath Fields, London.") . . . . .	1825
11th.	The New York <i>Albion</i> of 25th Nov., 1826, announced that H. M. Government had formed a plan for uniting the Provinces of B. N. America into one confederate system. . . . .	1826
12th.	Wm. Lyon McKenzie advocated a Union of the provinces in a speech. . . . .	1831
13th.	The British Imperial Parliament passed a resolution in favour of a Union. . . . .	1837
14th.	The Upper Canada Assembly and Legislative Council recommended a Federal Union. . . . .	1838
15th.	Rev. Dr. Strachan wrote in favour of Union. . . . .	1838
16th.	The Legislature of Nova Scotia voted against the plans proposed in the Upper Canada Legislature, on the ground that they had not been submitted to the N.S. Legislature. . . . .	1839
17th.	Lord Durham prepared his Report on Canada, proposing a Union of the Colonies, distinguishing between a Federal and a Legislative union, and thus divided the Unionists into two Camps, the Federalists and the Legislative Unionists. . . . .	1839
18th.	Geo. R. Young, of Nova Scotia, wrote a pamphlet in favour of Union of all the Provinces. . . . .	1840
19th.	Sinond's Magazine published in London, England, gave extracts from several colonial newspapers showing growth of the sentiment of Union. . . . .	1844
20th.	Major C. Warburton, M.P., wrote "Hochelaga or England in the New World" (1846) and "The Conquest of Canada" (1849). In the former work he said, "I should rejoice to see all the British North American	