

THE BULLFROG.

*Nec sumit aut ponit securus,
Arbitrio popularis auro.—Hor.*

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DR. TUPPER ON FEDERATION.

DR. TUPPER's task at the recent meeting was as light as it was palatable. Upon him devolved the pleasing duty of telling his fellow citizens what fine fellows they were, how they have advanced of late years, and how they may still advance, provided their talents obtain a wider field than that wherein they have hitherto been exercised. DR. TUPPER's patriotism wisely ignored all minor considerations; greatness was his theme, and he expatiated thereon to an extent somewhat overpowering. His argument was, simply this—We are loyal, prosperous, and talented in an unusual degree,—we are sufficiently advanced to become part and parcel of a great nation,—an Intercolonial Railway would materially benefit our commerce, but we cannot have such a railway unless we consent to throw in our lot with Canada,—we want population,—Federation will ensure it,—we are insecure,—Federation will render us formidable,—Federation is no longer a choice, it is a necessity.

To say that delay in this matter must prove fatal to our interests, is an assertion which we are by no means inclined to endorse. Why should we be dictated to by Canada concerning the fit time for Union? Are we to seek proposals for a new form of government at the hands of those whose inability to govern themselves is apparent to all,—are we to accept the Intercolonial Railway as a bribe for eradicating from the Canadian constitution the seeds of political dissolution? An elevating compact forsooth, and one well calculated to enhance our *amour propre*! We know with what feelings men regarded those who accepted Irish peerages at the hands of Lord CASTLE-REAGH, and shall we, from mere sordid avarice, allow Canada to tell us that, upon our prompt obedience to her wishes depends our only chance of a railway? Canada's language to us, as expressed by DR. TUPPER, is simply this—"We're in a muddle more than usually hopeless; your intervention can alone save our credit; help us out of our difficulties and we'll build our portion of the Intercolonial Railway." When we look at the actual meaning of such an overture, we can well understand the prudence of endeavouring to conceal it in a rhapsody of fine words. Strip the proposal of those tinsel ornaments which DR. TUPPER uses with such brilliant effect, and we feel somewhat ashamed at having even listened to such a scheme. We maintain that we are not yet ripe for Union, and that by Federation just at present, our public works would suffer rather than advance. It were childish to compare the different Provinces of British America with the four countries constituting the parent soil, or to argue about Canada and Nova Scotia, as we argue about England and Scotland, or England and Ireland. Mere Union never materially advanced the public works of the integral portions of the mother country, nor will Union with Canada advance the public works throughout this Province. Union, backed by an existing conservative element works wonders; Union, without such an element is comparatively worthless. And by a conservative element,

we mean something which these Provinces do not possess,—an influential body of men raised above the necessity of working for their livelihood, and anxious to cultivate, apart from the turmoil of business, the desire of benefiting their fellow men. The calm abiding influence of such a spirit of conservatism throughout every portion of the United Kingdom is, to our thinking, the true secret of Britain's moral greatness. The neighbouring States acquired greatness on a totally different principle, but our new empire is to become great on the English principle, while some portions of it yet lack that conservative element upon the existence of which so much depends. Constituted as our society is at present, we greatly fear that Federation (even if it would benefit us commercially as much as DR. TUPPER supposes) would not exalt us as a people. Which of us would accept the riches of an American State on condition that we also accepted the American character? No, there are higher considerations than mere railway compacts to be considered, when we come to talk of establishing a great empire. But, says DR. TUPPER, "There is no man who understands the character of Colonial institutions but knows and feels that they might as well attempt to keep a man in the swaddling-clothes of infancy, and expect him to discharge the functions of manhood, as to assume that a Colony, at the period of advancement to which these Colonies have arrived," &c. &c. What advancement have we arrived at? Does DR. TUPPER wish it to be understood that an increasing trade is the one thing needful whereon to found a great empire. If the "almighty dollar" is the one and only true test of advancement, we have certainly advanced; but we are inclined to look for higher and more noble advancement,—while we tithe the amish and cummin, we must not neglect matters somewhat weightier. Let us look at the way the law is carried out. A man is stabbed to death in a public street, and those concerned in the matter are not even arrested! Two or three men disappear from our midst, and for weeks no one can find out anything about them! Magistrates, whose business it is to prevent salmon poaching, are themselves the chief poachers! Look at our poor house, look at our jails, look at the dwellings of our poorer neighbours, &c, and then say whether we are in an advanced state! "The people of this country have an amount of personal liberty and security that cannot be found under any other system of government." Very true!—the liberty accorded to homicides, poachers, and smugglers is undeniable! But DR. TUPPER tells us we are in a highly advanced state, and fit for immediate greatness; and "sure, he is an honorable man." But why are our public institutions in the state they are? Because people are too busy to look after them, because we lack that conservative power which must ever be the one essential element of greatness under the British form of constitution. Now, if DR. TUPPER can prove that Federation will ever produce this conservative element, we shall admit the possibility of a future great empire under the constitution proposed. No