

Swiss boy." Taking advantage of the mutual love between France and Russia, the journals have been started, to work the union of the friendly nations. Strange, they commence by avowing the difficulties and the dangers of an alliance. Portugal is again "posted"; she is making a heroic effort once more to tap the coins in French old stockings; but enormous bullock's blood coloured placards, with letters as long as the sea-serpent, draw attention to Portugal being 365,000,000 frs. smothered in floating debt, in addition to having repudiated the Dom Miguel loan. That's not encouraging for the union of the Latin races.

Who would have thought it; of all the drawbacks laid to the charge of the Irish, infecundity was never cast in their teeth! Yet M. Levasseur, a top sawyer among statisticians, asserts that France and Ireland are the two countries where the natal rate is lowest, as compared with other European peoples. He does not supply the elements of comparison, however. In Brittany, which, like Ireland, is largely Celtic, there is to be found the highest birth rate in France; the largest emigration, principally to South America, and the strongest attachment to religion. It is also the most backward in education.

Though princes are as plentiful as blackberries in Russia, several of them ornamenting the ranks of the cabmen, it is rarely that any of them stray to the scaffold. In the Caucasus, a princely brute has just been decapitated for theft and murder. He wanted to be executed inside the prison, as was usual in France, and so not be a *première* for the mudjiks. Capital offences in France have had always their sentences carried out in public, no matter what social exaltation the culprit has. An exception was made in the case of judges. Thus Parpaille, President of the Parliament of Orange, and a kind of Chief Justice, was condemned to death for stealing golden altar utensils, and selling them at Lyons. He was exposed for several days in a wooden cage, and in September, 1562, was beheaded inside the prison, as was his privilege. His body was then brought outside and exhibited during three days on a scaffold, before terrified crowds. No member of the French judicial bench has ever committed robbery since. No wonder they advocate deterrent principles.

A favourite amusement with the small boys at this time of the year is the knocking down of horse-chestnuts from the trees. It is dangerous work for passers-by when stones are employed. The Luxembourg gardens is the outing ground for babies: one two-year-old infant was lying asleep in its mother's lap, when a stone thrown by an unknown fell from a chestnut tree upon the baby's head, and instantly killed it. The poor father was coming from his office to accompany his wife and child home, as was his custom in the evening; he had several toys that he had purchased for the baby; perceiving an excited crowd, he went to see what was the matter; his wife was in a faint, and a policeman held the infant in his arms, stone dead.

Z.

MARITIME UNION.

WHATEVER may have been the reasons for the division of Acadia into the three Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, the step from the present point of observation does not appear to have been either necessary or expedient. History does not lay its finger upon any particular case of neglect of the outlying portions of Acadia, or Nova Scotia, the name given the new territory acquired by the English, which called for its subdivision. The loyalists who settled in what is now New Brunswick, who founded St. John (originally Parrtown, after Governor Parr), were, no doubt, responsible for the erection of the new province. In the month of August, 1784, "information was received," says Mr. Murdock in his "History of Nova Scotia," "that the province was to be divided, and all the lands lying on the north side of the Bay of Fundy to be included in the new province." On the 1st of November of the above year the last session of the Fifth General Assembly was convened at Halifax, and on the 21st of the same month Col. Thomas Carleton arrived at Parrtown, and a proclamation was issued, in which the bounds of the new province were defined. About the same time, "St. John's Island," which, after its final capture from the French in 1758, had been placed under the administration of Nova Scotia, was erected into a separate province. In 1798 its name was changed to Prince Edward Island. Cape Breton also, in 1784, became a separate province, and had a Governor and Council of its own, but it did not remain long divorced from Nova Scotia, being re-annexed in 1819. Such are the facts in brief connected with the division of the Maritime Provinces into the several provinces which now are included in the term. Each of the provinces had a fiscal policy of its own, and imposed what duties it saw fit on the products of the other as well as on the products of the outside world. Before Confederation was accomplished it is well known that a Maritime Union with a uniform tariff was well on to settlement. The greater scheme prevailed, but without doubt the hearts of the people were more in favour of a union among themselves, than the alliance with Quebec and Ontario, which was largely the result of coaxing and coercion. The maritime people had no particular affection for the Frenchmen in Quebec, and Ontario was a country they did not then have intercourse with as frequently as they now have with British Columbia. Confederation being consummated, the original scheme of a Maritime Union fell to the ground. Each province continued its Local Government with the same paraphernalia and expense after Confederation as before. That a Mari-

time Union on a somewhat different basis than that at first proposed was possible has but recently dawned upon the minds of the men down by the sea. There is now a very general consensus of opinion among the young men that the cost of government in the three provinces is excessive, and that the local affairs of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island might be quite as easily managed by one legislative body as by six; that if Ontario with over 2,000,000 of people can get on with ninety members in her Legislature, the Maritime Provinces with a population of 900,000 do not require one hundred and sixty legislators. They see the absurdity and ruinous expense of having one legislator for every 5,500 inhabitants, while Ontario does with one for every 23,000 of her population. There is a heavy interest to pay on their respective debts, and their wise men are commencing to see that the interest on these debts might be paid, to say nothing of a reduction in the debts, by a more economical administration of government. Let us examine the legislative machinery of the Lower Provinces. Beginning with Prince Edward Island we find a province of which the greatest length is 150 miles, breadth thirty-four miles. Its population at the last official census was 108,891, though a later estimate makes it 200,000. It has three counties, Kings, Queens, and Princes. Now, the affairs of the province are administered by a Lieut.-Governor, an Executive Council of nine, three with and three without portfolios. Next comes the Legislative Council of thirteen members, and then the Assembly composed of thirty members. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the legislative councillors are appointed by the Governor, or really by the Executive for life. In the island province the Council as well as the Assembly is elective. This means that Prince Edward Island needs a representative in the Local Assembly for every 4,500 inhabitants.

New Brunswick, 230 miles in length, and 190 miles in breadth, in 1881, had a population of 321,233. To administer her Local Government are required a Lieut.-Governor, an Executive Council of six members, three with and three without portfolios, a Legislative Council of eighteen, and an Assembly of forty-one members. Nova Scotia has an extreme length from south-west to north-east of 360 miles, and its average breadth is 120 miles. Its population in 1881 was put at 440,572 souls. It has, of course, a Lieut.-Governor, also an Executive Council of eight members, four with and four without portfolios; a Legislative Council of twenty, and an Assembly of thirty-eight members. The above figures are taken from what should be an authentic source. If there is any change in the number of representatives it is so slight as not to interfere with the results to be deduced therefrom. It is, perhaps, not disrespectful to say that Confederation was somewhat rushed on the people of Canada, that it was not very carefully considered by the mass of the people. And it was, perhaps, with feelings of doubt as to its durability, that the various provinces insisted upon retaining the Local Parliaments in their pre-Confederation entirety. Otherwise the preservation of such a complicated system of governmental machinery seems unaccountable. It may be compared to a manufacturer continuing the use of a hundred horse-power engine, simply because it is in place, when a ten horse-power is all that his diminished business demands. This costly and wasteful expenditure of administrative talent has cost the Lower Provinces high. The total revenue for New Brunswick in the year 1887 was placed at \$694,000, inclusive, of course, of the Dominion subsidy. Of this sum almost \$51,000 was devoted to legislative expenses.

In the same year the revenue of Nova Scotia was \$712,000, and near \$60,000 of it was eaten up in the same way. Then there are countless other expenses which have to be borne by each province, whereas under a union there would be but one charge. Frequent attempts have been made in each province to reduce expenses. The trouble has been that the parties in opposition have continuously and repeatedly trifled with the people. To do away with the fifth wheels, in the shape of the Legislative Councils, was a promise which took well with the electors. To initiate a general system of pruning was also popular on the stump, and no doubt many a member owes his seat to having advocated such healthful measures. But once settled on the soft cushions of the Government benches, it has been found, again and again, that these promises were only given to be broken. There were mental reservations made on the stump, of which the public knew nothing. The advantages of a Maritime Union for local government appear to be many, and the disadvantages scarcely perceptible. The people of the three provinces are the same people. They have common occupations and industries. Their school systems are the same; their municipal institutions similar. Yet in some ways, under their present relations, they are as separate from one another as each is from British Columbia. A New Brunswick barrister may not plead a case in Halifax. A Prince Edward Island lawyer is debarred from the courts of either of the other provinces. The rule applies each way. And here are less than a million of people, and the age is one of federation. The judiciary of the Maritime Province is not a burden of which the people complain, but under Maritime Union a considerable saving might be effected in this department. Instead of three Governors, costing probably not less than \$25,000, there would be one. There is \$15,000 saved at once. Instead of three Assemblies, with a total of 109 members, there would be one Assembly, with say 50 members. Then following the good example set by

Ontario and Manitoba the criminal waste of the people's money in keeping up three Legislative Councils would be no longer a reproach for a wise and understanding people, and they would have no use for even one such Council. Think of the money saved by such a union. See the waste of official-machinery in each capital, and that it now takes three sets of clerks to accomplish what could be done by one set of clerks. Then there would be the prestige the Maritime Provinces would gain. Ontario, which has always been more or less afflicted with a spirit of boasting and is constantly thanking the Lord that she is not as other provinces are, could no longer point to three small disunited provinces by the sea, whose main object in existence was to draw milk from her overflowing teats. She would see one grand Maritime Province managing her local affairs economically, and holding the key of the gate to the Atlantic Ocean, capable perhaps of giving her other lessons than how to manage her public schools.

Should Ontario, increasing in population as she is, desire a proportionate increase in her provincial legislators, the Maritime Provinces could give her a Legislative Council cut and dried. If she would apply at once, she might have the pick of three.

Here is a real chance for reform; a practical way of saving money, and of winning esteem. There are no parties in local politics down by the sea. It is the old story of the "ins" and the "outs," nothing more. Let a Maritime Union party arise. For once give the people a rest from lying and slandering. Let them have the true state of affairs made known to them, and the reforms advocated here will be adopted. To be sure there would be difficult details arising. Where would be the seat of Government? What would be done with the holders of provincial sinecures? And, above all, what would become of the fifty provincial "lords"? Again, to what purpose would the unused buildings be devoted? Where would be the capital?

It is such questions as these which have hindered progress in every stage of the world's history. It is the little things that clog the wheels, and whoever takes up in good faith the question of Maritime Union, with a view of carrying it out, may have the best part of his life's work ahead of him, but he will be promoting a measure more sensible than many which the people are asked to indorse.

T. C. L. KETCHUM.

A MODERN MYSTIC—XII.

THE next day we started early on a big journey, forty miles south of Regina, to Mowat's ranche. We drove on a clean trail through a sea of level prairie—the finest land in the world—here and there a farm house, with a couple of hundred acres tilled; here and there only, because the settlement for some reason has gone north. At the Moosejaw Creek we halted for lunch, fed and rested the horses, and then spun along to the ranche. While supper was prepared we sallied out to see the horses driven into the corral. Anything more interesting than to watch three or four hundred horses, young and old, galloping, curvetting, bounding down the hills, it would not be easy to conceive, and every man of us felt that the life of a rancher was no unenviable one. After supper we all sat in a large tent, which until fixed for the night might be used as a sort of drawing-room, and watched the sun sinking to his rest.

Helpsam, as he knocked the ash from his cigar, said: "Mr. McKnom, there was an interesting episode in history, the rise of Neo-Platonism, beginning with Ammonius Saccas early in the third century and extending well into the sixth."

McKnom: "Beginning with Ammonius Saccas? The revival of Platonism dates from much earlier. In the second century after Christ whatever was good in the heathen world put forth all its energy to save society from the ruin threatened by its own corruption. After the blackness of darkness of the Domitian tyranny, there rose what seemed a beautiful dawn, the promise of many more. It was seen that a genuine devotion to the worship of the higher powers might yet bloom, and philosophy brought such solace as it might to disturbed consciences and taught men how to regulate their lives. There was a revival in the heathen world, and how high its moral teaching could go we see in Plutarch. It was from this revival Neo-Platonism sprang. Unless you ignore a Providence, it is manifest that the Greek nation was as much preordained to lead to the spread of Christianity as the Jewish to ushering it on the stage; and the influence Greece has exercised on the world and on the spread of Christianity is so great that Alexandria, where Greek thought played its last great part, is only inferior in interest to Jerusalem and Athens. Then Alexandrian Platonism is not exactly that of Plato; new conditions gave it a new aspect, and the new aspect imparted a new flavour."

Professor Claucus: "Do you call Alexandria the last stage where Greek thought and Greek philosophy played to a world it was inspiring and regenerating? What about Florence in the fifteenth century?"

McKnom: "I am aware of what took place at Florence! After the sixth century there was no organic life—nothing of a movement in Platonic philosophy. In the fifteenth century at Florence a stimulus was given to the study of Alexandrian Platonism by the exiled Greeks, and it was in this form Platonism was made part of English thought by our own great theological thinkers. We have seen that Platonism had much that was sympathetic with, if not prophetic of, Christianity. But the Platonism of Alex-