

town throughout the Province. A public meeting—in the true acceptation of the term—has an influence upon men's minds immeasurably greater than any amount of learned discussion which is not made public in the columns of the Press. The words of a tailor's assistant, spoken at a public meeting, have more influence for good, or for evil, than the most polished arguments used in private at the tables of the Squires, Lawyers, or Ministers. And if ever an expression of public opinion were required in Halifax, it will be required at the meeting shortly to be convened in this city, upon the great questions of—Union, or no Union—Federal, or Legislative Union.

We cannot conclude this article, without addressing ourselves to one particular class of men,—men, who, while ignoring politics as at present constituted, yet express themselves (in private) pretty strongly upon political matters in general. This city, like all other cities, has its so-called "upper ten." The members of this "upper ten" have thought proper to treat our local politics with contempt. They consider it beneath their dignity to come forward as candidates for admission to an Assembly entrusted with such trifling matters as the formation of laws, and the control of the Provincial revenues. They deem the Assembly decidedly *low*, and withhold therefrom the light of their genius. They are—par excellence—the "leading men" of Halifax, but they do not consider the interests of Nova Scotia worthy of their exalted interference. Well,—let it be so,—let us suppose that local politics are as a rule beneath the notice of gentlemen. We think the time has come, when these fine gentlemen might show their exalted patriotism in a manner calculated to benefit the country wherein they assume such lofty importance. Nothing is easier than the affectation of a dignified contempt for Provincial politics,—but the time has now arrived when these lofty minded men must either declare themselves in favor of a scheme propounded by those whom they affect to despise, or else oppose such a scheme in a manner befitting their dignity. At a public meeting, common sense generally wins the day. Our recent delegates are doubtless better speech makers than most of their detractors; but readiness of speech comes with practice, and the public is seldom influenced by mere oratorical display. A great question is about to be discussed, and many of our most influential citizens are utterly and entirely opposed to the views to which the Provincial Secretary and the Leader of the Opposition are pledged. Then, in the name of common sense, let our leading citizens speak at the proposed public meeting, or, by their present silence, forfeit all right to be heard hereafter. Our delegates have done their best,—let us follow their example to the best of our ability. They have given time and thought to an all important question:—if their conclusions are faulty, let us not keep our sentiments to ourselves.

BODIES CORPORATE.

Why Bodies Corporate, Commissioners *et hoc genus omne*, should never by any accident give to the world an idea worth the paper it is written upon, and why they should never be able to compose two consecutive lines of decent English are questions worth the attention of the Darwinites or any body else interested in the "development of the species." These bodies are, as a rule, composed of citizens of average attainments, who we may presume, would look upon such questions as, Have you any idea what you are talking about? Did you ever hear of Lindley Murray? as direct insults; yet no one on reading any of their productions will deny that such queries are generally very apropos. Whatever they may do in private, no sooner do they come before the public than their "collective wisdom" assumes the undesirable aspect of collective nonsense.

They seem to seize it, we will hope, unusually stupid idea as a good opportunity of impressing upon the world their disregard for grammar, and their total ignorance of the meaning of the English language, though why they should consider an absence of common sense and a deficient education necessary qualifications for their position we are at a loss to understand. The way in which they invariably ignore the ordinary rules of composition suggests some curious speculations as to the *modus operandi* by which their minutes, etc., are reduced to writing. A more painful instance of the proverb "too many cooks spoil the broth" we never met with. For take any individual of a Body Corporate, shut him up in a room by himself, give him an idea, pens, ink and paper, and the chances are he will write something intelligible; but put them all together, and the result is enough to make Johnson and Lindley Murray rise from their graves. The original draft of their minutes and records may or may not be English, but each member has his own pet sentence or phrase which he fondly believes will "aid in bringing out the meaning," and this he insists upon pitchforking in at random all over the proceedings. Mr. Fuzzle, with a tendency to adverbial expressions and long words, views "notwithstanding," or "nevertheless," with a good deal of admiration, and without as far as anyone else can see much regard to relevancy, wishes to adorn every other sentence with one or other. The other members having, as we have already hinted, taken leave of their senses for the time, after a slight demur admit it, and down it goes just where room can be found to write it, its position in the sentence being of secondary consideration. Mr. Dazed inclines to "owing to" or "seeing that" at intervals, and one of them is occasionally smuggled in much the same way. Mr. Fuzzle and Mr. Dazed probably look upon the results of their labor with much complacency, and well they may, only "Mahershaallahashash" or "Holy Poke" would look just as pretty, and would be much more intelligible.

A very beautiful instance of these unfortunate peculiarities of Bodies Corporate was recently afforded in a published Minute of the Board of Commissioners of the Poor's Asylum. It comes quite up to the usual standard in point of composition, logic and absence of ideas. Why the Commissioners should have made this remarkably successful effort to write themselves down asses, it is not easy to see. They may be bashful when assembled in conclave high, or may there indulge in the bad habit of all speaking at once. However we will not enter into any more speculations on the subject, but will go at once to the consideration of this extraordinary document. It opens with the following very exquisite preface, "The Board having under consideration a certain anonymous publication which appeared in the *Bullfrog* newspaper of the 29th of October last, censuring in severe terms the conduct of the Commissioners in the management of the institution, it was unanimously resolved that the following minute of their remarks thereon be entered in the Record book:—" It will occur to every one before we have done with "their remarks," that it is very unfortunate that said remarks were not allowed to slumber peacefully in the "Record book," instead of being published for the benefit of a critical public. It would not be easy to guess what the Commissioners mean by "a certain anonymous publication which appeared in the *Bullfrog*;" a knowledge of the facts, however, enables us to gather that this is the mellifluous phrase by which they designate an "article" in the said newspaper. This method of putting it does not say much for their knowledge of the usages of newspapers in general, for "articles" never have any name attached to them, nor does it appear to us particularly elegant English, as talking of "an anonymous publication in the *Bullfrog*," is equivalent to saying "an anonymous *Bullfrog* in the *Bullfrog*."

There was evidently some uncertainty in the collective mind of the Commissioners on this latter point, as lower down they talk of "an anonymous communication," in the *Bullfrog*, and of "the observations of an anonymous writer" in the same. The latter part of the prologue shows that the stage of hopeless confusion has not been reached, for the Commissioners show themselves equal to the task of connecting cause and effect: the article in question having noticed some of the habits and customs of the Poor's Asylum, and not being able to praise them, the Commissioners, very naturally, concluded that they were respon-