

only tangible pledge for England's good faith, is a mischievous theory, unfair alike towards England and ourselves. England has no wish to cast us adrift, and those who try to magnify a possible withdrawal of troops into the expression of such a wish, are ignorant of our true relations with the mother country. It would be likewise unfair to impute selfishness to the Home Government in asking us to undertake our own defence, inasmuch as forcing upon our notice the necessity for self-reliance, would be the most friendly act ever performed towards us. Self-dependence is a quality as necessary to a country seeking to be a nation, as to a man about to leave his father's house, and enter upon a profession. The most brilliant opening in life seldom does much for a man who lacks energy to follow up his advantage,—the fairest prospects of a country aspiring to nationality may be nullified by an undue reliance upon external aid. That England will ever be ready to assist us in a financial point of view is what we may reasonably expect, but that she will always continue to supply us in peace time with men, fortresses, and munitions of war, is to expect what is neither just or reasonable. "Let not a free country like England," writes Mr. ADDERLEY, "dream of maintaining Colonies in equally free government with herself, by the bribe of undertaking their protection. Their freedom is corrupted, and its spirit dies, in the very act of receiving the boon." It has been urged by some, that, as England must have troops, it is as well they should be kept in healthy Colonies as anywhere else. This argument can hardly be said to meet the great question—whether it is not wiser that all parts of the Empire should combine to maintain British ascendancy, than that one portion of it should supply troops for the whole. It has also been argued,—and a very popular argument it is, that the benefits which accrue to England from her commercial relations with her Colonies, are a fair equivalent for the expenses she incurs in Colonial defence. This would be a very weighty argument could it only be proved that the Colonies brought more profit to England than any other foreign countries with which she has commercial relations. The Colonists take British manufactures because in many cases they are the best that can be got at a moderate price. Unless monopoly of trade with the mother country be agreed to by a Colony, no more will be paid for commodities by Colonial purchasers than by any other purchasers. It is all very well to talk of the magnitude of British commerce, but to say that British Colonies swell such commerce, merely because they are British Colonies, is contrary to common sense. Germany is not an British Colony, but for all that, Birmingham and Sheffield supply her with scissors and pen-knives, the reason being not that such scissors and pen-knives are English, but because they are the best and the cheapest that can be manufactured. This commercial argument against self-defence as the reasonable duty of a Colony, seems to us worth nothing whatever. A few may object to the possible withdrawal of British troops upon mercenary grounds, inasmuch as their presence in B. N. America is worth about a million, sterling, per annum, a sum equivalent to the whole grain export of Canada during the year. But as army contractors, and publicans, are those chiefly interested in this matter, we must dismiss it as a thing of comparatively small importance. We have in this article endeavoured to fancy Union achieved, and have consequently argued, not as regards Haligonians, but as regards British North Americans, taken as a compact body. The birth of self-defence would only fall upon this Province to the whole of the proposed Western Empire. As regards Halifax only, we should not have even a voice regarding its defences. If we may, Halifax will be defended

garrisoned by English troops. Halifax, as a Naval station, is more important to England than all the rest of British North America put together. Our garrison may under peculiar circumstances be slightly reduced (even this is most unlikely), but so long as the Dock-yard exists, so long will England build fortifications for its defence, and furnish troops for its protection. But it is not so with the rest of British North America, and as matters now stand Halifax has everything to gain and scarce anything to lose by Inter-colonial Union. But we would, for reasons which we need not now disclose, advise the people of this Province to pledge themselves to nothing—for at least six months from the present time.

#### TRANSACTIONS OF THE NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

Whilst England is recovering from the mild and useful debauchery of its annual scientific feast we have just gone through a course of similar merriment ourselves. The Nova Scotian Scientific Institute has presented its second volume of proceedings to the public, and we are glad to be able to say that it reflects great credit upon its authors. Whilst some of the papers contain nothing but learned words and catalogues interesting only to the professed naturalist, many will afford to the general reader valuable information on many subjects of great practical importance. We regret to see that many of these latter essays cannot be brought to a conclusion without a couple of pages or more of a dribbling descriptive peroration, valuable no doubt at the reading of the papers, as a kind of relish to the heavier condiments of the intellectual feast, but totally out of place, we think, in a published volume of the proceedings. Such little excrescences can readily be excused in a work of such promise as the volume before us.

The importance of meteorological observations is forcibly urged by Colonel Myers in a little article on that subject,—and when we consider how easy it would be to establish a system of observations in different parts of the Province, and the enormous length of our telegraph wires, we can see no reason why, as he suggests Liverpool, Halifax and Guysborough should remain ignorant of the atmospheric disturbances which may take place at any point along the coast. The importance of our coasting trade, the loss of life it yearly entails and the vast saving of human life achieved by Admiral Fitzroy's system of Storm prophesying would suggest the propriety of starting at a small expense a similar system of Storm-warning on our Atlantic seaboard. The author of this paper points out moreover another solid advantage to be derived from meteorological observations. After comparing analytically the mean annual temperature of various spots of British North America, Colonel Myers says:—

We have seen that at Montreal during a septennial period it is noted at 136.3, at the same place in 1859 it was 141.3. At Kingston C. W. the range in one of the above named years reached 117.5: at Newfoundland 101: while at Halifax it has not exceeded 100.

As the registers from which these data have been gathered are not (with one or two exceptions) for the same years, nor in complete succession, a perfectly accurate result from the comparison of these places cannot perhaps be arrived at: but I think it may fairly be assumed that the temperature of Halifax is the most equable among them: and indeed it would be difficult to prove, from statistics, carefully compiled for the information of the authorities at War Office, and from other sources, that Nova Scotia enjoys a climate, equal, if not superior to that not only of the other British Provinces on this continent, but of any of our colonies. Our winters are not too severe, our summers not too hot: and though we cannot boast much of our springs, the loveliness of our autumnal weather is not, I believe, to be surpassed in any part of the world.

The fine specimens of our fruit and other production of the sort which have been exhibited in England, have convinced people there that Nova Scotia is not the hyperborean region they had long supposed it to be: and the more the excellence of the climate of this country, and its other advantages are understood abroad, the greater will be the inducement to the emigrant to bend his steps to our shores.

No means for making them better known ought to be neglected. I look forward sanguinely to the time, when this Institutionally promote this desirable and important object by publishing at stated intervals, a series of Meteorological observations of its own, furnished completely and accurately by standard instruments.

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