

Our Ministers Abroad,

Or rather AT HOME, being a faithful account of an interview between CANADA'S DELEGATES.
and the DIGNITARIES of DOWNING STREET, LONDON, ENGLAND.

(Continued.)

WHEN we (*the Sprite*) promised to furnish our readers with an accurate account of the sayings and doings in Downing Street, we certainly did not expect that the proceedings were to be kept as close as the minutes of the celebrated Quebec Conference. Our Courier, who resides in the metropolis of Great Britain, has informed us, confidentially, that he cannot fathom the depth of these very profound transactions. He writes that what with State Receptions, State Balls, State Dinners and sundry other State arrangements (to which he is, of course, not invited), it becomes very difficult to record the progress of *Our Delegates*. He is, however, a well-informed fellow, and as he has indulged in the liberties usually granted to Dr. Russell, George Augt. Sala and other "celebrities," of playing Paul Pry even without the assistance of the umbrella; he has favored us with a few more reliable pen and ink sketches of the progress of *Our Delegates*.

It will not be supposed for one moment that the appearance of a few *Colonists* at the particular point well known as the *imploring corner* of Downing Street, would disturb, in the slightest degree, the "*otium cum dignitate*" of that particular neighbourhood. But, and it does seem strange, there was some respect shown to *Our delegates* when they solicited admittance. We would not insinuate that such small affairs were previously attended to as matters of etiquette, but in fact, they were assiduously, and we might say religiously, regarded.

In diplomatic affairs, there is no State solemnity, at least, such has hitherto been the experience of Colonial delegates.—But a new attempt, perhaps a most presumptuous attempt, is being made to place Colonial gentlemen on the same footing as the gentlemen of the metropolis. Why are we not understood and appreciated in England? *The Sprite* could furnish an answer, but colonial modesty forbids the essay.

DIALOGUE No. 2.

I o'clock P. M.—(the official hour for Colonists) Rt. Hon. Mr. Cardwell in the *Sanctum Sanctorum* of the Colonial Office, surrounded by devoted clerks, &c., &c.

Clerk No. 14, announces OUR DELEGATES.

Mr. Cardwell is in close conversation with "our minister" from the Feejee Islands.—For some time, Canada must wait.—*Feejee* takes his departure, and Canada at length enters.—Colonial Minister bows, Canada's delegates, *DITTO*, *DITTO*.

MR. CARDWELL.—"Gentlemen, I am happy to have an opportunity of receiving the *élite* of Canadian politicians.—It will afford the members of Her Majesty's Government much pleasure to meet those who have come from a distant colony, after some serious local

difficulties, with the earnest desire of providing for a continuous connection with the British Crown.—Any assistance that we can consistently give, Gentlemen, in your praiseworthy object will, I am authorized to say, be freely offered."

JOHN A. MACDONALD.—"Right Honorable Sir, In the name of my colleagues of the Canadian Delegation, I tender our gratitude for the cordial reception that we have had, in this, the capital of Great Britain. I may briefly state that we represent the political parties of Canada, Conservative as well as Reform. We are deputed by the people of Canada to lay before Her Majesty's Government measures of vital importance to the very existence of the colony, and more particularly with respect to the maintenance of British connection. Among the points likely to arise in a conference which we now have the honor to propose, I may mention a Confederation of the British North American Provinces, the armament and defence of the country, the construction of an Intercolonial Railway, and the opening up of the North West Territory. On the latter point, I may remark that the Hon. Mr. Brown, one of our number, takes that branch under his special care. We are prepared at any moment to enter upon the important duties which we have to perform."

MR. CARDWELL.—"Gentlemen, I shall lose no time in laying your proposition before Her Majesty in Council, and shall have much pleasure in communicating to you, without delay, the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the proposed conference."

Excunt omnes, with low bows.

They return to the hotel.

CARTIER.—"Isay, Mac, *sacré tonnerre*, de ice is broke, now for de bisness."

BROWN.—"Well, Macdonald, I could see no special advantage to be derived by connecting my name so prominently with the Nor' West question."

GALT.—"Why, Brown, you are the only reliable authority among us on that topic. Your articles in the *Globe*....."

JOHN A.—"Now Galt, old fellow, drop the *Globe* for to-day; Brown is going to dine with his old friend, Sir Edmund Head, and any allusion to the *Globe* (of 1858) might spoil Brown's dinner. '*Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis!*' Did you ever find the maxim so applicable, Brown?"

BROWN.—"Aye, aye, very true, very true, but while here, my friends, speak as little of that paper of mine as you can. I am George Brown, Minister of the Crown, here: not George Brown of the *Globe*."

ALL.—"Agreed, Agreed, Agreed."

Business was then dropped for sight-seeing, until further communications from Mr. Cardwell.

(To be Continued.)