

This incident should teach persons who possess written or printed documents relating to the early settlement of the Province, of which but a single copy exists, to use great caution in furnishing these to parties seeking them. We have no desire to throw obstacles in the way of the advertiser who dates from Fredericton, but we cannot help thinking that before applying to the friends or descendants of Loyalists to furnish the information required, he should at least have appended his name to his advertisement, that those who may be willing to meet his wishes may know with whom they deal. It is important that all documents, at least, should go into the hands of those only who are prepared to guarantee their being used and published; for the time is not distant when every scrap of information of this description will be eagerly sought for by the coming Historian.

That there are yet in Nova Scotia many uncollected "facts, anecdotes, &c.," not hitherto made available to the Historian, is probable, though the fact cannot be stated with confidence. If such should remain unappropriated by our Halifaxians and Mundeols or others who have hitherto employed themselves in the preparation of our historical records, it is to be hoped that the N. B. writer may be encouraged to proceed with his work after dropping the anonymous.

So much for the past. If our present and future history is to be written, the compiler should also be at his work. Materials are accumulating so rapidly that he will have little occasion to advertise the world of his wants. Let him but make terms with one of the Delegates now absent on the errand of Confederation for the jottings of his journeys and jollifications for the cost of which the Province so liberally provides, and these will be found ample material if not for a veritable Provincial History, at least for an entertaining story in which political pictures of the Munchausen character will be marvellously combined and reconciled with the "essential element" of truth.

Extracts.

CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS.

Social questions are becoming the most important questions of the age. Political reformers, if they were honest, would speedily change their trade, and agitate with a view to improve the moral well-being of the labouring-classes, instead of frantically crying out to obtain for them what they do not require. To give a right to vote for members of Parliament to a quarter of a million of men who live honestly and comfortably by their manual labour cannot be compared, in point of importance and magnitude, with the great object of raising a couple of million of the lower classes from their present state of degradation to the position occupied by the hard-working artisans above them. New dwellings for the class from which our criminal population is constantly being recruited, so that they might have the means of comfort in their own homes, the spread of education, and the wearing of the working-classes generally from the pernicious use of spirituous liquors, are some of the weighty problems the solution of which would contribute a thousand-fold more to the happiness and prosperity of the people than the realization of all the political nostrums of the radicals put together. The immense increase which has of late taken place in the production and consumption of spirits in most countries throughout the world, and the terrible evils which have been caused thereby, have been lately brought prominently to notice by a French physician, Dr. Decaisne. The Swedes stand first on the list as the largest consumers of spirits in the world. Numbering about four millions of people, they actually imbibe, on the average, eleven gallons of spirits per head during the year, or 44,000,000 gallons, which are produced and consumed in the country. This is something frightful, and prepares us for the statement that the Scandinavian race is rapidly undermining its physical and intellectual qualities by such an enormous consumption of "poison." In a parish of the lower Seine, the consumption of spirits among 9,000 people was discovered to be at the rate of about five gallons each, not half so much as that of the Swedes, yet the result was sickness, insanity, and crime to an extent that was absolutely shocking. In this matter we have nothing to boast of ourselves. It is true that the English people though seven times as numerous as the Swedes, do not drink as much as they do in the year by about four million gallons; yet the inhabitants of London lay out annually £3,000,000 sterling on spirits—that is, at the rate of a sovereign per head of the total population, while Glasgow spends £1,200,000, and Manchester £1,000,000, for the same purpose. What a mine of wealth is here, if the people would but save it, and thereby ensure their health, their personal happiness, and their domestic comfort!—*Public Opinion.*

Local Items.

A petition, asking His Worship the Mayor to call a public meeting at an early day, for the purpose of affording the Delegates from this Province to the Quebec Convention, an opportunity of explaining their views in reference to the union project, is now in course of signature in this city.—*Chron.*

THE DEPARTURE OF THE FLEET.—The Fleet takes its departure from this port on Wednesday next. The Flag Ship will proceed direct to Jamaica; one or two other vessels will probably touch at Bermuda on their way to the different West India Islands. So long as the Yellow Fever prevails at the former port, our gallant Admiral will be necessitated to make the latter his headquarters during the winter. It is now stated that the *Challenger*, screw frigate, Capt. Kennedy, will remain in these waters until January, when she will be relieved by a smaller vessel of the squadron. The former will doubtless proceed to England direct from this port, where her crew will be paid off her time of service on this station being completed about that period.—*Recorder.*

VALUABLE GIFTS TO KING'S COLLEGE.—Dr. C. Cogswell has on several occasions made handsome presents of very varied nature to King's College, and he has since the beginning of the present term, shown the interest he takes in the Institution by a further most valuable and well-timed donation. It includes a variety of Chemical Apparatus, some Minerals, an Herbarium of some hundreds of British Plants bound in five large and thick volumes, two Crayon Portraits (of a Provincial celebrity of a hundred years ago and his wife), a good oil Painting, and a large number of bound books, perhaps two hundred volumes, with numerous valuable Pamphlets. The books, in Spanish, Latin, German, French and English, show the varied nature of the studies of the learned donor; they are almost all of a scientific nature and extend over a wide range of subjects.—There are some very valuable and expensive works on Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology. Really it is pleasant to have to record acts like this of Dr. Cogswell's, and the more we have to speak of the better for the cause of Education among us.—*Col.*

FALSE ALARMS.—People have been startled often enough of late by *bona fide* alarms of fire; but when half grown boys are sundered to run through the streets sounding false alarms, and thus creating unnecessary alarm and needless anxiety to those who hear them, it is time an example was made of some of them. We believe there is a law to meet such cases, and it should be put promptly in force.—*Journal.*

THE OFFICERS OF THE FLORIDA.—The appearance of the officers of the Confederate war steamer *Florida* on their arrival in Washington, is thus described by the *Star* of that city:—

"These officers were nearly all neatly dressed in new uniforms of Confederate gray cloth, and wore naval caps similar to those worn in the U. S. Navy. Nearly all of them wore 'china whiskers,' of the pattern worn by Captain Semmes.

"They appear to be a harum-scarum set, and talked noisily among themselves while they were being conveyed from the 6th street wharf to the Provost Marshal's. All of them had gold watches, with large chains dangling from their vest pockets, and several displayed quite a profusion of jewelry, such as diamond pins, finger rings, &c., the proceeds of their piratical career. One of them carried under his arm a handsome mahogany writing desk, while several had huge meerschaum pipes, at which they puffed on their way.—While on the pavement in front of the Provost Marshal's awaiting admission to the office, an apple woman passed on the opposite side of the street, when they hailed her and bought the contents of her basket, paying for the same in greenbacks, and at the same time exposing to view handfuls of silver and gold.—*Chronicle.*

SERIOUS LOSS OF HORSES. The steamship *Morroto* which cleared lately from Montreal with 107 horses for Havana, reached here in six days out from Pienou with her cargo considerably distressed, and nineteen horses dead. This melancholy circumstance was caused by the fact that the steamer being too flat in bottom, rolled to an unusual degree in the most ordinary sea. The scene between decks where the horses were stalled was sad to witness. The poor animals appeared to have been crowded together rather closely for comfort, and the rolling of the vessel had sickened them all, and many of them had dashed down the waterwork around them in their struggles, and torn away their boxes, and strangulation &c. The corpses of several fine animals lay piled together among broken partitions and bushels of oats and other stores that had burst from their cases. Some of the living horses are badly chafed; and the wonder is that any of the poor creatures survived. They were landed this afternoon at Tarr's Wharf and will likely be sold here.—*Citz.*

Some of the Canadian papers are still discussing the probable name of the new Confederation. The matter, however, has been left to the Queen, for her selection or decision. A correspondent of the Toronto Globe suggests *Britannica*, *Albertania*, *Transatlantia*, *Transylvania*, *Albinora*, *Consensia*, *Vesperia*, or *Mesopelagia*. The same correspondent objects to *Tupona*, *Borealis*, *Albus*, *Laurentia*, or *Niagara*. What next?—*Sun.*