

UNION OF THE PROVINCES.

From the London Shipping Gazette.

The Union of the North American Provinces under one comprehensive form of Government and general system of Colonial supervision is essential of their individual prosperity and security of general security. It is a theme which we have discussed wide shipping and Mercantile Gazette, Oct. 3, 1854; and the necessity for it is more prominent at the present time than ever, now that the subject of our dispute with the United States may possibly lead us into extension of our boundaries. Whether the union can be considered in the point of colonial defence, or mutual support of general uniformity of action in trade regulations, in legislative enactments, in the protection of the natural resources of the country, in encouraging the movement of population and the settlement of waste lands, or in the adjustment of boundaries and the extension of telegraphic communication—each and all of these can evidently be better carried out by a common understanding, and a uniformity settled upon, than by the separate efforts of each and independent of each other. It has been fairly agreed that a union of the North American Provinces would remove the existing causes of difference among the more intelligent and better educated classes, and make a wider field for the diffusion of knowledge, which frequently arises among the coldest. Such a union would throw open an arena wide enough for the display of the most ambitious—one in which all professions would soon find ample scope for action, and rewards commensurate with their talents. A combination of the Provincial unions would give to British America a name and a standing which would be known and recognized in every corner of the earth, and would make it such a confederacy as the colonists could claim with affection and respect. Another important consideration urged is the effect which the combined and independent condition of the Provinces has upon their internal prosperity. From the time when the British North American Provinces became separately organized dependencies of the British Crown, they have, day by day, had been almost as foreign countries to each other, and until within a few years kept almost entirely aloof from one another.

Each acting for itself has quite ignored the existence of the others; and by this means needless differences have arisen between their various judicial codes, their public institutions, and their commercial regulations. Increasing wealth and intelligence, with their consequent demand for a larger field of action, having necessarily, within the last few years, brought the Provinces into closer contact, have led to the removal of some of the principal impediments in the way of their mutual intercourse; yet the increased facilities only made more vexatious the remaining obstacles to a perfect union. The needless existence of so many entirely separate and co-ordinate legal jurisdictions in a single and compact section of the empire is an English vice. And it is naturally so, tends in a great degree to impede commercial intercourse between its various parts. But these are national and political reasons, as cogent in favour of a union of the Provinces. A New York journal (*the Seagull Post*) not long since wrote on the question of the annexation of Canada:—

"Such a union is inevitable, and sufficiently near to warrant the dismissal of all impatience for its immediate consummation. The Canadians are already joined to the United States by railroads to be used for commercial purposes, and social intercourse, by a similarity of habits, and, to some extent, of institutions, and by those thousand ties which 'thou light as air, are strong as links of iron.' For this reason alone, it becomes the duty of the largest city in Canada, and the Canadian gentlemen who purchased their summer residences along the shores of Lake Huron besides investing in the varied money enterprises of the capital of that province, to desire a union of the community in the State of Maine. All the tendencies of the Canadian people are favourable to its union with this country, and every event hastens the time of its occurrence. The advantages which the people of both countries will derive from the union are sure to stimulate a desire for a more extensive removal of commercial difficulties, and a complete commercial union is but the forerunner of an enduring political union."

The forces of the United States, it should be remembered, have twice invaded the North American Provinces. The desire to do so again remains quite as strong as it ever was. There is only the most extreme possibility that the United States will ever bring British North America under their dominion; but it is quite within the bounds of probability that this attempt will be made, and that at no very long period. The chancier and most effective of those means would certainly be to place the Province in a position to defend themselves—to give them that self-reliance that constitutes of physical strength, that unity of action, and increased dissemination and intensity of national feeling which can be given by a Federal union of those Provinces, and by that only. Such a union would be the best means that could be taken for establishing a power on the American Continent, and, while it is being managed, without exposing us to trouble with England except in their malignant interests. She makes no provision by which the colonies of people inhabiting British America in every part of the globe shall share her legislation or her armament, and give vigor to her diplomacy, accuracy and fulness of knowledge to her administration, or number and strength to her armies."

Judge HALIBURTON, another experienced British American colonist, better known under his *nom de plume* of "Sam Slick," well remarks that—

"Things can't and won't remain long as they are. England has three things among which to choose for her North American Colonies—First, incorporation with herself, and representation in Parliament. Secondly, independence. Thirdly, association with the United States. Instead of deliberating and selecting what will be most conducive to the interests of herself and her dependencies, she is allowing things to take their chance. Now this is all very well in a general way, over which we have no control; but the particular dilemma we are in, we can't get out of. If one of these three alternatives is infinitely better than the other, and it is in our power to adopt it, it is the height of folly not to do so."

Again, in his last work, he makes the following pertinent reflections on the Provinces, in which there is also too much truth:—

"They have outgrown colonial dependence; their minority is ended; their chastelet is out; they are of age now; they have done well in your house; they were put out to nurse at a distance; they must now stand on their own feet; and, unless they can make good belief that you can't have your men, and how they may turn. They have your name, for they are your children; but they are younger sons. The talents and all the honours go to the eldest who resides at home;

They knew but little about their parents, farther than their wills have been liberally paid, but they have no personal acquaintance with you. You are tired of maintaining them, and they have too much pride and too much energy to continue to be a burden to you. They can and will do for themselves, and you are over enough of seeing them in sole partnership with yourselves. In the course of time they may form some connection with the United States, or, if not, with some other nation, and then we may be compelled to let them go. These are some important questions, and they must be carefully considered. How far have they acquired their confidence and affection? What have been their manners to them? Do you treat them like your other younger children that remain at home? These you put into your study and temple by one man, liable to them, because a single measure fails of immediate effect?

"We will answer this—the position of 100,000 people from this city to be treated with contempt by his Excellency, because he did receive a petition in common with both houses of Parliament. The reply of his pet government was to bar the petition, and refuse to consider it. If you prefer diplomacy, you shall be welcome to your old master. If you like politics, I will place you in Parliament, if you have no talents sufficient for the House of Commons, you shall go out as Governor of one of our Colonies. These appointments belong of right to you, but they may help themselves at second best. How far you come into your old master's family, or your children above? Is your heart perfectly at rest? If by general understanding he means the public voice, we would ask him what he thinks of the general understanding at the election—

The Courier adds—The late government felt that it ticked his nose up upon them with the Prohibition Law. It is quite right that they should feel it. The wags of trickery, and as little then into office, deserves nothing better than "No thanks for an Oliver." When the old man has the best of his ability ejected all the bad ones, and with his stomach well changed, he would go with a prayer for the prosperity of the Legislature. His deliberations of the present session—but to my mind it sounds very like "Romans" again—I would have said Amen, but the word stuck in my throat."

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Under these trying and untoward circumstances it is not much to be wondered at that the Editorials are a little confused, and not so ripe with perspicuity as might be desired. We may also be want of the necessary acumen in deciphering the editorials of its present men, and we trust he will excuse us asking him for a solution of the following paragraph:—

"It is no part of the duty of the issues of Assembly to interfere with the prerogatives of the Crown; the constitutional right of the Sovereign is to be left to the discretion of the King, and with respect to the King's right to issue a Royal Charter, we might recommend the employing of Mr. R. Mills, whose advertisement appears in this issue. Mr. Mills is as well known in the community, and in material and chaste dispense of pleasure grounds, as to need little at our hands, yet for the love of flowers, and all that is lovely in nature, we hope to see such men patronized, and sustained in our midst. In referring to Mr. R. Mills' talk as a Landgrave Gardener, we cannot do better than point to his labours at the Cemetery, where he has converted an incongruous mass of natural deformity into a Bed. Such metamorphosis as such to be desired, and requires only the patronage of the wealthy."

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"Are these legislators to be swayed by sentiment, or their opinions to be tried with contempt by one man, liable to them, because a single measure fails of immediate effect?"

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One Week Later from Europe:

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The steamer *Nagara*, which sailed from Liverpool about 11 o'clock on Saturday the 15th instant, arrived at Halifax on Tuesday the 18th at 7:15 P.M., with 95 passengers for Boston. She arrived at Liverpool at 10 A.M., on Sunday the 20th. The Indian arrived in the Mersey just as the *Nagara* left. The *Falcons* sailed from Southampton on Monday P.M., the 21st, for New York.

The *Chaser*, 567 tons, 100 horse power, the first ship of the London and Montreal line, will sail on the 20th. The *Falcons* arrived intelligence that Mr. Macaulay's motion for a vote of confidence in the House of Commons, and was eventually thrown out by a majority of 191. The *Falcons* also notified that Mr. Chapman, who writes for the Foreign Office, had written a letter dated 10th inst., to Sir George Grey, Minister of War, in which he complained that the United States had been too much involved in the war with Mexico.

It is announced that a second expedition of eight ships of war, with troops for disembarkation in Mexico, was ready to sail for Havana, should Mexico refuse to satisfy the Spanish demands.

PORTUGAL.

The weather is at least fair, but it is feared that all the crops have already suffered from too much rain. Breadstuffs are being purchased in England.

ITALY.

Admiral Fonda is becoming more and more popular. The chief of the *Lazaretto* is a man of 70, and no further