

of the Dominion shewing a surplus; had that fund not been in existence a good deal of the color for the present agitation would never have existed. On her behalf it is argued that her surplus is due to the ample provision made for local public works by local direct taxation, and to her self-denying economy in divesting herself of governmental appendages which are better adapted for ornament than use. The plea is urged that if other Provinces follow her example they will have a surplus too, and whether this plea is well founded or not, it will require no small amount of argument to induce her members of Parliament to abandon the position. If the financial pressure felt just now in Manitoba and New Brunswick would only lead to the extension of the boundaries of the former province, as it seems likely to do, and to a legislative union of all the maritime provinces, which does not seem to be at all close at hand, much benefit would result from it. In any case to ask for "better terms" under the threat, explicit or implied, of withdrawing political support from the ministry of the day, would be as suicidal as it is unfair. The demand is either an equitable one or it is not. If it is, let it be considered on its merits and not be mixed up with the chicaneries of politics. If it is not, and if the boon can only be secured at the expense of the just rights of other Provinces, it must be abandoned. New Brunswick members may hold the balance of power between contending parties now; the day will come when they will not, and their success in disturbing the financial basis of the union now would only pave the way for a reconstruction of it on less advantageous terms at some future time. These remarks have no reference whatever to the merits of the claim, which has certainly an appearance of plausibility, if not an aspect of truth; they are intended as a *caveat* against a mode of presenting it which appears to be looked on with favour in some quarters, and which all honourable men must sincerely deprecate.

The publication of the terms offered to Prince Edward Island by the Dominion Government has been the signal for a not unexpected explosion. As usual, the alleged inconsistency of the men in power in advocating what they once reprehended, is made the excuse for equal, if not greater inconsistency in their opponents. Those who always opposed confederation are naturally, if not justifiably exasperated at what they deem the trick played on them by their quondam leaders, though it is not necessarily any more a trick or a shuffle than the passage of the Catholic Emancipation Act by the Duke of Wellington, or the repeal of the Corn Laws by Sir Robert Peel. The whole history of constitutional government is full of seeming tergiversations, which may, with perfect honesty, be regarded by the perpetrators as specimens of the highest kind of statemanship. The Journals of the Island, always bad enough in temper and low enough in tone, are of