

One would naturally suppose that to the members of a Friendly Society the idea of division on racial lines would be most repugnant. Certainly there is no "brotherhood," no "fraternity" where men split off into sections on the line of race. The good work capable of being done by a friendly society which embraces citizens of the States and citizens of Canada, of two races, is so great and so desirable in the interests of peace, and of the cause of friendly societies, that any quarrel amongst them is to be deplored. The United States Irish members of such a Society refused recently to send delegates to meet the French Canadian Congress of the Society at Springfield. This is sharply censured by a city contemporary as an act of unjustifiable hostility against the French race. Perhaps a reason could be found for the Irish Americans having shown an apparent lack of courtesy to their French brethren. In this Province the Society in question, we are informed, is made up of members of the two races in the proportion of three-fifths of one, two-fifths of the other, yet not one single office of honour, of emolument has been granted to those in the minority. The three-fifths simply refuse any representation in the higher council of the Order to those brethren who comprise two-fifths of the members. Out of such injustices arise serious social evils; they are the seeds of civil strife. In the interests of fraternal society organizations whose capacity for valuable services to the community is so great, in the interests, also, of social peace and of mutual good-feeling amongst two classes of our citizens, it is most desirable to bring the existing feud to an end. "It is not, nor can it come to good." Some influential *amicus curiæ* should intervene to establish harmony and mutual goodwill.

#### Newfoundland and Confederation.

THE CHRONICLE having favored the entrance of Newfoundland into Confederation, is rejoiced by evidences of there being a strong sentiment developing in the Island in favor of incorporation with Canada. The "St. John's Telegram" voices this sentiment as follows:—

"There has been a strong confederate feeling on the west coast of the island for several years past, and we believe it is more pronounced at the present time than ever before. During our visits to the districts of Bay St. George and St. Barbe last fall we were forcibly impressed by this circumstance, as we observed the earnest manner in which many of the fishermen, planters and traders—particularly at Bay of Islands and Bonne Bay—spoke of the advantages they would derive from Confederation. Rightly or wrongly—we are not to-day going to discuss the merits of the question on either side—they seem to think that many privileges from which they are now debarred would be available to them if Newfoundland became a province of the Dominion."

Even more earnest is the "Harbor Grace Standard," which is moved to prophecy:—

"The acceptance of Confederation now is merely the question of a few years. The more quickly the better, as soon as we can secure suitable terms. Probably, however, it will need a little greater fiscal pinching and a series of bad fisheries to screw the courage of our statesmen of confederate leanings up to the point of actually clinching the bargain. The arguments in favor of union are daily growing stronger, they will soon become irresistible. The worst of it is, that the colony has lost so much through the long delay."

We should hear with regret of the Island experiencing "greater fiscal pinching, and a series of bad fisheries," for these conditions would rather delay than hasten Confederation. We desire to see the financial conditions and prospects of Newfoundland greatly improved, so that in entering into partnership with Canada the terms will not put the Island under humiliating obligations to this country, but be equally honorable to both, as, beyond all question, the union would be to both advantageous.

#### Wasted School Work.

At the Teachers' Convention, just held, one of the masters of a public school advocated the more general inclusion of Greek in the course of study in boys' schools, because, he asserted, without a knowledge of Greek no one could write good English. Such a notion is most mischievous, as well as erroneous. Some of the most accomplished writers and speakers of English have been those unacquainted with Greek, for example, William Cobbett, Robert Burns, Thomas Cooper, Geo. Elliot, John Bright, Morley Punshon, and hosts of others.

The two English poets whose command of English in all its purity, strength and richness remains unrivalled, Chaucer and Shakespeare, were not Greek scholars. The "well of English undefiled" does not flow from the "Pierian spring." The number of those worthy to be called Greek scholars is very limited. The late Lord Lyttelton was one of the half-dozen men of his day who could compose in Greek as rapidly as in English. He used to amuse himself, when presiding at public meetings, by dashing off a jocular epigram in Greek and tossing the scrap of paper on which it was written to a scholarly friend. But his lordship's English in speaking was rather slovenly, and in writing no better than the average of those without a classical education, but fairly well read in English literature. The plain fact is, that, unless a youth is destined for a learned profession he wastes his time obtaining a smattering of Greek, for more than the merest smattering is not, and cannot possibly be, acquired by the great mass of school boys. They may manage to skim over the *Anabasis* or *Memorabilia* in a very superficial way, but, that such exercises help them to any knowledge of the