

THE BULLFROG.

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NOTICE.

We must apologise to our numerous contributors for not sooner noticing their contributions, and shall endeavour to meet their wishes next week, when the BULLFROG will be enlarged by eight additional columns. We had intended making the alteration this week, but were unavoidably prevented from so doing. It was not, at first, our intention to publish Correspondence in the form of letters, but circumstances have induced us to change our resolve, and we shall, in our enlarged form, be enabled to devote a fair portion of our space to opinions, possibly foreign to our own.

The BULLFROG can be obtained every Saturday afternoon at three o'clock, at the following Bookstores.—Hall, Army and Navy Bookstore, Hall's Street, Messrs. Muir, Mackinlay, Katzmann and Gossip, Granville Street.

FEDERATION.

The Quebec convention has closed its proceedings and the leading politicians of British North America have arrived at some conclusions on the last method of uniting its several provinces. During the interval which must elapse between the first surreptitious ooze of the proposed plan and the final discussion of the problems which it involves in the various provincial legislatures, it is incumbent upon the people of each state to come to some decision as to what they really do want and what they do not want. To slur the whole thing over, to say—"Personally I do not care what happens"—is to argue a collective political imbecility utterly unworthy of the 19th century and the Anglo-Saxon race. To say, "I suppose these Delegates must be right, they are the leading men of the day and know more about such things than you or I"—is to give up once and for ever the value of free opinion, and the growing power of a people's voice in Nova Scotia. We do not act thus when a fanciful railway scheme is airily proposed by a prominent politician, or when the tears of an illused mail contractor are poured out for the commiseration of the public. These sad facts press directly upon a small portion of our community, and warfare on such subjects waxes hot and strong. When, however, a question arises in which our whole population is interested, and its relations with the great community of our fellow men is in question, our lips are motionless and we let things take their course. This apathy must exist no longer. And the breathing time now afforded between the closing of the conference and the full publication of its results must not be wasted. The fact of the Lion and the Lamb lying together at Quebec—Dr. TUPPER and Mr. McCULLY sitting for several days at the same table—should not lull us into the suspicion that the true interests of the Province were of necessity fairly represented in the Conference by so disinterested a coalition—Eight dollars a day, and the reflection that a refusal to attend the meeting would be used both personally and politically against the offender, sufficiently accounts for the eager haste with which these two politicians seized seats at the council board—Each of these gentlemen will no less than heretofore regard his opponent as the physical embodiment of the powers of darkness in the spring, and it will be a cheerful sight to the disaffected of both parties to observe the deportments of their leaders when they meet face to face in the Province Building. In the mean time we must think for ourselves, and derive in-

dividual pleasure or pain from a contemplation of this proposed union.

The wise men, from all that we can learn, have decided that a federation of the British North American Colonies is practicable, and it behoves us to consider whether or not it will suit Nova Scotia to become one of such a conglomeration of separate states as the name Federation implies. Federation, we all know is not Union, it means merely a commercial contract, and if we cast our eyes southward it speaks to us of prospective disunion, anarchy, and bloody war. If ever a reasonable warning was given to a young and rising nation, one has been vouchsafed us by the fearful drama being at this moment worked out in the Federal States of America. It is hardly probable that the British Government, with such an example before them, will sanction any scheme of Union which fails to forbid once and forever, the whimsical secession of any irritated Province. The urgent demand however on strategic grounds for an intercolonial railway, the fictitious importance attaching itself to the delegates, and the prevalent apathy regarding colonial affairs in England, render such a contingency possible. Federation on the Stars and Stripes principle, which we fear may be our lot, is far more suggestive of Stripes than Stars. Federation on such principles means simply this—"We will all join together now, because an Intercolonial Railway must be built, and it is a disgrace to us all that it has not been built before. Free trade between our Provinces cannot fail to be beneficial, and our power of resistance in case of war will be increased by a Union of any kind. We make however this reservation,—if any feeling of jealousy arise in any one of the high contracting parties, he may at any moment stultify himself, the whole Union, and the Home Government, by withdrawing from his agreement." It is into such an Union that our Province will probably be hurled by its politicians—Provide never so wisely against the possible disruptions of a Federal Union—failure is still imminent, and the very name should be offensive to thinking men. It can mean no permanent Union because it provides for dis-union. It can mean no permanent Union because the cry for a dissolution of partnership may at any moment of Provincial annoyance become a popular party cry, and finally it can mean no permanent union because a popular party cry in any one Province may shatter the whole fabric. We do not wish to be misunderstood. A commercial arrangement between the British North American Provinces may be desirable. The completion of the great Railway so long and so disgracefully postponed, may of itself justify such a compact; but if our people fancy by a participation in so mild a scheme suddenly to become the inhabitants of a great United Nation, mighty indeed is their mistake. There is some talk moreover about a Viceroy, perhaps a Royal Viceroy, being appointed to preside over these united colonies at Ottawa. The position of such a person would be painful in the extreme. Never could he retire to rest without the painful reflection that he might arise the next morning shorn of one half of his provinces. Never could he sanction a measure for the