

are as stated, and it is more than probable that if Washington's great services had been properly recognized, Patrick Henry made Attorney General of Virginia, and a few others placed in those prominent positions which their influence, talents, and interests in the country warranted, the North American Provinces might have remained British Colonies to the present day.

It is evident, however, that Providence willed it otherwise, but the fact still remains the same that a rebellion was needlessly precipitated, while no constitutional means of redress for actual evils was tried. On whom the blood-guiltiness rests this narrative will try to show, and while it will not spare the faults of British statesmen it will not extenuate those of their adversaries.

At the period when the charters of the British Colonies were granted England did not know what a "Responsible Ministry meant," that necessary key stone of constitutional government had been slowly elaborated during the period which elapsed between the Revolution of 1688 and the year 1760, the Colonies were entirely without any such machinery, its plan being to a certain extent supplied by the Legislative Council of each Colony. A meeting of the Governors of the different Colonies was held in Albany in July 1754, for the purpose of concocting measures for united action in the event of the war then pending. It was proposed to obtain an Act of the Imperial Parliament for establishing a general form of Government for all the British North American Colonies, under which each Colony should maintain its antonomy except the changes necessary to be made in the Constitution and Charters to bring them into harmony with each other and the general Government—which should consist of a President-General appointed and paid by the Crown, and a Grand Council elected by the Representatives of the people, the President-General should have a negative over the acts of the Council, and that no law should be valid except it received the Royal assent, and that all existing laws should be brought into harmony with English statutes and nothing contrary thereto should be enacted. The promoters of this scheme were sanguine of its success and declared that if it was adopted by the British Government the Colonies would be able to raise a force sufficient to protect themselves and assist in the conquest of Canada.

Unfortunately for the interests of Great Britain that unprincipled imbecile the Duke of Newcastle wielded its destinies, and some of his creatures imagined that it would put a final extinguisher on the ministerial patronage by naturally compelling the President-General to bestow the Lieutenant-Governorships on the leading men in each Colony, besides preventing the appointment of Secretaries, Treasurers and the whole host of the small fry of officials by which the course of Government was obstructed and the people plundered.

Instead of according this Act which would

have perpetuated British rule over the thirteen colonies, the following was proposed: "That the Governors of the Provinces assisted by one or two of the members of their council, should assemble to concert measures of defence, with authority to draw on the British treasury for all sums that might be requisite, which should be reimbursed by taxes levied by Act of Parliament." As might have been expected, this movement did not succeed, but it had a fearful effect on the contest which followed, and materially aided the political anarchy from which the Revolution of the British Colonies sprang.

Exactly one hundred and ten years later the British Colonies in America effected a similar union, not only with the approbation of the British administration but at their instance, as a measure not of separate national existences, but as a means of consolidating the power of the Empire and placing the Provinces in their true positions as integral portions thereof.

The history of the events succeeding the proposed "Union" of 1754 are to be found in the second volume of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, under the title of "The Campaigns of 1754-64."

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PETERBORO' RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the above body was held on Wednesday fortnight in the Council Chamber, for the purpose of electing a patron for the ensuing year, and arranging the date for the annual match. The Rev. Vincent Clementi, President of the Association, occupied the chair, and there were also present A. H. Campbell Esq., Col. Poole, Major Kennedy, Capt. Kennedy, Messrs. G. Edmison, Chambers, Knapp, and Adjutant Kennedy, (Secy.)

The proceedings of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Chairman said the object of the present meeting was to make their business arrangements for the ensuing year, and to elect a patron. There was also a report to receive from the range committee who, he believed, had found a piece of ground suitable for the purpose. Before they came to the subject of the range, they would proceed to the election of a patron.

Col. Poole moved that the patron of the last year, Judge Dennistoun, be re-elected.

Major Kennedy seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Chambers said with respect to the shooting range, the committee had found a suitable site, in Ashburnham, which might be made immediately available for the purpose at an outlay of \$50, though to make it complete, a sum of from \$100 to \$150 could be expended and no money wasted.

A conversation ensued in which Mr. Campbell, Col. Poole and Major Kennedy took part, as to the probability of obtaining a lease of the ground; but nothing definite was elicited.

It was moved by Mr. Knapp, and seconded by Capt. Kennedy, That Mr. Grover's letter upon the subject be referred to the range Committee to act upon it as they deem fit, and that pending the decision of the Government, \$50 be expended upon the range.

The 15th and 16th of June have been fixed for the Match, and committees appointed

to obtain Subscriptions, and carry out all arrangements. The president and Mr. Campbell beth promised prizes of ten dollars cash.

The auditors were appointed for the ensuing year, and the meeting adjourned till the 14th of June next.—*Peterboro' Review*.

We understand that the small but celebrated St. Catharines Rifle Club has commenced its practices, and that every Wednesday during the season will be devoted to practice. This is right, for it is only by observing the greatest care in the management of the weapon, in the selection of the ammunition, and by regular practice on the range that our Rifle Club can expect to retain the high and honorable position which they have won for themselves on many a "hard fought field." As many of our citizens as feel disposed to cultivate that knowledge of arms among our youth which has contributed so much to the glory and greatness of Britain, and which has enabled the brave and manly Swiss to keep themselves free and independent in the midst of covetous surrounding despotisms, should become members of the St. Catharines Rifle Club by contributing a small annual fee; and whether they become marksmen or not themselves they will at least have the proud consciousness of doing their duty and show a spirit of generous patriotism.

Everything in the world ought not to resolve itself into greenbacks; life, as shown by Dickens in "Hard Times" is very dull and unlovely without a spice of romance and enthusiasm; and by cultivating a certain amount of generous sentiment we become better men, better friends and better citizens.

"Form, form, Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready to meet the storm.
Riflemen! Riflemen! Riflemen form!"
—*St. Catharine's Journal*.

The *Daily News* advocates a plan of military colonization. It says: We hope the Dominion authorities who are in possession of the Fertile Belt will concoct some scheme whereby that ancient and valuable mode of peopling regions can be revived. The British army contains thousands of married men, to whom a grant of land would be the highest prize that could be offered for loyalty and good service. It would be easy for the Imperial government to organize each year one regiment of such veterans, convey them to the banks of the Saskatchewan, feed and pay them for five years, furnish them with free grants, and allow them to work their lands. They would be entitled to pensions under any circumstances. Let this policy be pursued for twenty years and we should then find as many thousand families planted on our western border. We should secure a well trained and powerful military organization, and we would have the additional merit of recompensing our soldiers.

Adjutant-General Stryker, of Newark, is about writing a work on the character and services of the New Jersey soldiers who died in the late war. Two hundred and nineteen New Jersey officers died from wounds received in it.

An ex-volunteer, reading that Chandler was going to raise 60,000 Michigan soldiers to capture Canada, took out his pencil and commenced multiplying that number by 500. "What's that for?" asked a bystander.—"That," replied the volunteer, "is the bounty—\$30,000,000!" "Where in—," was the next query, "is Chandler going to raise the stamps!"