

forts which the Asylum can bestow,"—this fact speaks volumes, as our readers know already. We now come to the concluding portion of the Board's remarks, which we publish entire—"The other observations of the anonymous writer in the *Bullfrog* the Commissioners do not consider themselves called upon to notice; they rely rather on the knowledge their fellow citizens possess of their characters and long continued charge of the poor, as sufficient to exonerate them from the imputations cast upon them, and with confidence hope that it will be readily admitted they have every humane desire to discharge aright the duty they have gratuitously undertaken." We beg to call particular attention to this passage, inasmuch as it comes before us in two distinct lights—a ludicrous and a serious light. We shall first deal with it in the former light. A number of men having, as we before remarked, met together to make a public acknowledgment that our facts, as formerly stated, were literally correct, must needs salve their wounded feelings by passing a vote of confidence in themselves! We have no doubt that the resolution was passed unanimously. Nothing can be more charming than a number of men coming together resolved to pat one another on the back all round. "I say, old man, you're a capital Commissioner.—What do you think of me?"—"First rate, old boy, first rate," &c. &c. "Your character is above all suspicion,—What do you say about mine?"—"Immaculate, my dear sir," &c. &c. This sort of thing is very nice in its way, so long as no serious charge is to be combated; but we, in the name of the outside public, brought certain charges against those connected with the Pauper Asylum, and we do not feel disposed to withdraw those charges on the strength of the character of the Commissioners. We stated our belief that, the paupers are constantly employed as menials without receiving any adequate compensation, and we further stated that, if we had been informed aright, at least one Commissioner had thus employed one or more paupers. This was one of the observations, which "the Commissioners do not consider themselves called upon to notice." What does this mean? It must mean, either that what we formerly stated regarding the employment of paupers in menial offices, was untrue, or that it is a trifling matter—a matter unworthy of notice, that paupers are, or have been so employed. In either case, the Commissioners have placed themselves in a position somewhat awkward.

They rely upon their character to exonerate them from the imputation, but we doubt whether the public will rest satisfied with this assumption on their part. If the paupers have not been employed as stated, let the Commissioners say so; if the paupers have been so employed, the appeal as to character has been somewhat unfortunate. The Commissioners, by their own Minutes, published at their own express desire, make the question of pauper employment without adequate remuneration, a question which reflects upon their characters in the eyes of their fellow citizens! Why then, do they not clear their character by a simple denial of the charge brought against them? It is a charge which cannot be altogether pool-poohed, inasmuch as the employment of paupers without adequate remuneration, is an admirable method of keeping such men paupers to the end of their days. If paupers can be fitly employed, they may be made useful members of society, and a system which tends rather to keep them a useless burthen upon the public is, as we before remarked, a "vicious system." No, no, Messrs. Commissioners, the public is not altogether satisfied with your polite evasion of those "other observations of the anonymous writer in the *Bullfrog*." Remember, Gentlemen, you have, by the publication of your Minutes, most gratuitously made the question at issue a question of character, and the public is watching your proceedings with the interest due to your self declared social importance.

THE PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETING.

We understand that a Public Meeting will shortly be held in this city, for the purpose of narrating the proposed Federation scheme. We sincerely trust that it will be largely attended, and that we may note upon the platform a goodly array of speakers. The general details of the scheme are by this time known with tolerable accuracy, and all that remains to our delegates at the recent Conference, is the task of convincing their hearers that the Federation scheme is sound in its bearings upon our own interests. That they will do their best in defence of principles to which they are already pledged is what we must naturally expect; but that they will altogether convince their audience is by no means certain. This will be no ordinary meeting, inasmuch as the questions at issue will be questions of more than ordinary magnitude,—questions, involving changes which affect in a greater or lesser degree, not only every Nova Scotian, but every one in anyway interested in Nova Scotia. We trust therefore that Messrs TUPPER and McCULLY, will not have the field of discussion all to themselves; but that others, having, it may be, a larger stake in the Province than either of these gentlemen, will make themselves heard. If rumour can be trusted, one of our city members is a man of great wealth and commercial importance,—one to whom it would be a dull impertinence to ascribe any narrow party ambition,—let him speak, and make public his sentiments prior to the reassembling of the members of either House. Since it is, unhappily, not the custom for our members to address their constituents during the recess, let our city members, at least, seize the opportunity about to be afforded them, and speak their minds freely upon the greatest topic with which they have ever had to deal. The proposed meeting will be a first appeal to public opinion, and the subject to be discussed is one which public opinion must eventually decide. The Haligonian public must either endorse or reject the policy of Messrs, TUPPER and McCULLY, and the opinion of Halifax will, we presume, have some effect upon the general opinion of the Province. The question, as to whether the contemplated Union shall be Federal, or Legislative,—whether Haligonians are in favor of any Union,—whether they are prepared to abide by the numerous issues involved in the Union scheme at present proposed, such as, the change of our Constitution, the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor, the probable disfranchisement of many of our Constituencies, and our transformation from a quiet progressive, yet independent people, into a remote offshoot of a trading community bound together by a mercenary compact which may at any moment be ignored,—these, are some of the questions upon which Haligonians will be called upon to give an opinion.

The proposed Public Meeting offers an excellent opportunity for the public expression of opinions hostile to those which found favor at the Quebec Conference. That there are many influential men in favor of a Legislative, and opposed to a Federal Union, we have no reason to doubt. Let such men come forward at the proposed meeting and speak out,—or for ever after hold their tongues. The question before us, is not one of Provincial partizanship, but of general importance. It is a question upon which all are, or ought to be, deeply interested. It is a question, greater—far greater, than any we have yet been called upon to decide. Let the proposed meeting be in every sense a public meeting: when we have heard all that our citizens have to urge *in public*, it will be time enough for us to canvass public opinion, as estimated by a contemporary—in expressions dropped at the county smithy, or the village counter. We confess to having great faith in public meetings, as calculated to elicit public sentiment; and we trust that the publication of the proposed Federation scheme may provoke public meetings in every

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