The York Gleaner

Wednesday, September 17, 1884.

A NEW FIELD FOR TRADE.

The approaching completion of the Canada Pacific Railway attracts attention to the trade which can be developed between the Dominion and the countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean. The vast expenditures which have been made in connection with this railway can never be justified, and will remain a lasting reproach to the administration which is responsible for them; but there will at least be some compensation for them if the railway becomes a great commercial highway. The public have already been told that the Railway Company contemplates putting on a line of steamers from the Pacific terminus of their road to Hong Kong, and there are good reasons for believing that a large part of the traffic between China and Japan and western Europe can be drawn to the Canadian road. The distance from Hong Kong to Liverpoo, via the C. P. R. is many hundred miles shorter than by any other route. For passenger travel, light freight and mails fast transcontinental trains can, it is said, reduce the time occupied in transit between the two places at least ten days. This, if correct, will be sufficient to divert the bulk of this traffic from the routes now in favor. But this sort of business, while it would be an excellent thing for the road, and for the terminal points on both oceans, will not have much tendency to augment the industrial development of Canada. To accomplish this we need the most favorable trade relations procurable with the countries on the Pacific. To-day we propose to speak more particularly of the South American republics, with which at present Canada has little or no commercial intercourse.

These republics consist of Chili, Peru, New Grenada and the United States of Colombia. Their united populations is about 8,000,000. The reports of civil wars and a general condition of anarchy from Peru are calculated to mislead Canadians as to the real condition of these countries; for in 1882 we find that Chili's imports amounted to $52,000,000 or within a little of half the imports of Canada. The total imports of these republics must largely exceed those of the Dominion. Canada's share of their trade is very meagre. In 1883 the total export of goods from Canada to Chili, Peru, New Grenada and Colombia amounted in value to $144,718, made up principally of lumber from British Columbia. Some $18,000 worth of lumber was shipped from Quebec to Peru, and $12,000 worth of machinery to Chili from Ontario. A large item of the imports of Chili, and it is presumable that of the other countries the same thing holds true to a larger extent, consists of cotton goods. These in 1882 amounted to $10,089,346, of which very much the greater portion were from England. Other textile fabrics to the value of over $6,000,000 were imported by Chili the same year. The other imports consist principally of manufactured goods of all kinds.

A large proportion, over 50 per cent., of the foreign trade of these countries is with Great Britain, and a line of steamers plies regularly between the British ports and those on the west coast of South America, making weekly departures. The United States has a small share of this trade. The field is well worthy the consideration of business men in Canada; and if a subsidy is necessary to induce a company to put on steamers from Port Moody to Valparizo, the subsidy should be forthcoming. Provincial New England manufacturer have their attention directed to this market and they hope to be able to get rid of the surplus product of their cotton mills in South America. Canada will prove a very formidable competitor with New England, for the cost of production of manufactured articles here is quite as low as it is in the United States and the cost of transportation of the goods need be no more from the extreme east of Canada to Chili than from Massachusetts. A portion of the present imports of these republics is carried around Cape Horn, another portion goes by way of the isthmus and still another portion by the United States transcontinental railways to San Francisco and thence by sea.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

It is hard to say just what conclusion ought to be drawn from the voting in Maine on Monday. The Republican majority is a great increase over that of last year, but is not more than the average majority at the State elections in the last ten Presidential years. One would have supposed with Blaine a candidate the majority would be far above the average, especially as the Democrats were without organization and made very little effort to poll their full vote. The New York *World* (Democratic) said on Sunday that anything less than 25,000 of a majority would be equivalent to a defeat; but this was probably because its correspondents found a majority of at least 15,000. The Boston *Herald* said that any thing less than 7,000 would be a defeat, therefore from the *Herald's* stand point the result is a substantial victory for Blaine. The Republican managers themselves expressed a hope of carrying the State by 10,000. They probably understated their expectations for the sake of effect. The New York *Sun* says that the Democratic gains in the manufacturing cities is a subject for congratulation.

Tammany will come out squarely for Cleveland, and this it is thought will unite the New York Democracy. The Brooklyn Trades Union has concluded to support the Democratic Candidates. It looks, therefore, as if the Butler boom was collapsing. This will be a decided gain for Cleveland.

Blaine shirked the vote on the Prohibitory Amendment, by leaving town on election day. This fact is being worked for all it is worth by the Democrats, who hope to stampede a lot of Prohibitionist Republicans over to St. John.

The strength of the German bolt to Cleveland is increasing, and it looks as though Blaine would have all he can do to carry some of the States which were thought to be safe. Betting men are putting up even money on the general result.

THE TEACHERS' COMPLAINTS.

When Arabi Pasha was crushed, El Mahdi came forward as the leader of the disaffected subjects of the Khedive. So when the Parkin rebellion was squelched, Mr. William Jones of Albert county came to the fore as the champion of the dissatisfied teachers. Thus does history repeat itself. The Parkin rebellion had two objects—sympathy and holidays. The question of salaries was entirely subordinate to these, for when he was asked how he proposed to raise $1 out of the $150,000 necessary to put the salaries at a proper figure he said the question was an attempt to avoid the real issue. What Mr. Jones wants we do not know. The reports of the meeting, at which he read his paper only give us some unintelligible talk about machinery out of repair and boilers about to burst. Our city opposition organs, which hail him as their long expected deliverer, *vice* Parkin, squelched, do not profess to say what Mr. Jones wants or how he proposes to get it. They are sufficiently happy in the knowledge of the fact that he "talked back" to the Chief Superintendent. We are left completely in the dark as to what he wants done or left undone. We are told that good points were made by him and others, and the weakness of change in the School Law demonstrated, but are given no hint as to the nature of the points or in what the weakness consists. There is a painful absence of facts in the reports of the meetings, so much so that it is impossible for any one to say whether Mr. Jones and his followers are making reasonable demands or not.

Will somebody not take compassion upon a long-suffering public and state in a few words what the teachers complain of and what remedies they have to suggest? We can promise that such a statement will receive the most respectful consideration. It is easy for a lot of irresponsible people to talk in vague generalities about steam boilers about to burst, and machinery out of repair; but it is quite time that some of them grappled with the question as a matter of practical work, that is if they expect any good o result from all their talk.

Do these complaining teachers propose that the annual grant to education shall be increased, and if so what other service do they propose to cut down?

Do they seriously pretend that from six to eight weeks holidays in the year are not enough for men and women who only work five hours a day for five days out of the week at any time?

Do they imagine that it is they, and not the people who pay their salaries, who shall say what the children shall be taught in school?

No one wishes to choke of discussion; but every one, except gentlemen like Mr. Jones and Mr. Parkin and the editors of our contemporaries above mentioned, would like to get the discussion out of the realm of "gush" and into the arena of sober fact.

The Chief Superintendent gave the Albert County Institute some statistics which showed that the annual expenditure of the government for education would not be reduced, but its distribution would be equalized. No one questions the correctness of Mr. Crocket's statement; though they claim he avoids the issue by making it. The *Reporter* says it cannot understand it; but we do not know that anybody is under an obligation to make the *Reporter* understand anything. Such an herculean task would appal the most determined. The *Farmer* asserts that Mr. Crocket's explanation is "childish." Mr. Crocket will probably at once resign. After such a withering epithet from such a source he must wish he had never been born.

The public at large are getting sick of this perpetual complaining from the teachers, without a single definite suggestion, and if the teachers did but know it they are losing the sympathy of their best friends. The approval of such sheets as the *Capital*, the *Farmer* and the *Reporter* counts for nothing. Their readers are few and their treatment of important questions superficial. They neither reflect nor affect public opinion. They seek to injure the Government not to help the teachers. The government is anxious to do all it can for the teaching professon. It would gladly increase the pay of all the teachers as it has increased that of some of them, but the revenue of the province is limited and the number of teachers is increasing. If it is ever found possible to increase the government allowance THE GLEANER would warmly approve of its being done; but we are unable at present to see how this can be effected, and the teachers who complain are unable to tell us how. The money to pay higher salaries would have to be taken from the roads and bridges, and we are satisfied that the people would not sanction this.

THAT PAPER OF JONES'S

Mr. William A. Jones, the Albert Co. El Mahdi, has published his paper in the *Maple Leaf*. We regret, for the sake of the profession to which he belongs, that he was able to induce any newspaper to give publicity to the document, although there is this to be said in extenuation, that he has never had the advantages of a thorough educational training. Now that it has appeared in print the hope that the Chief Superintendent expressed that it would not be published, is more than justified. As a sample of the sort of stuff which the public is expected to take stock in and is asked to believe is representative of the opinions of the fifteen hundred teachers of this province, we make a few extracts from Mr. Jones' paper. He begins to discuss his subject, which is called "Our Work," in the following words:—

> I have no desire that the manner in which I have discussed the subject in this paper shall be considered either thorough or profound.

He might have saved himself the expression of this desire, as no one after reading his production could possibly entertain such an idea. After a sentence or two which mean nothing he says:—

> It had long been apparent to me that there was a screw loose somewhere in the professional machinery; that some of the numerous wheels were badly fractured; or, what was more probable, had never been placed in proper position. But after the duty of uniting the paper devolved upon me, I took the trouble to investigate the school machinery more closely. I do not think it would be prudent for me to disclose fully the results of my critical, profound and laborious investigations, but shall content myself by giving my briefest notes.

After this exhibition of tomfoolery, he goes on to talk about the Chief Superintendent, whom he calls "the governor," and speaks of him as an "old machine" parts of which "wabbled badly during the past year." How this will delight the *Capital*, the *Farmer* and the *Reporter*, and the other Joneses and Parkins of the Educational service. After some silly remarks about "lubricating oil" he goes on to speak of the Attorney General in the following terms:—

> Since that time, a man whose knowledge of machinery—judging from his acts—must have been learned from casually observing the intricate workings of the wheelbarrow and grindstones of York County has been tinkering at the boiler. But the boiler is not safe yet, by any means, my private opinion is, that it is liable to burst again.

He then speaks about "the driving wheel," we suppose he means the teachers, which with a frightful ignorance of machinery he says is what does the work in a steam engine, and which he says needs lubricating. We quote:—

> The wonderfully sagacious and economical person, who at present is controlling affairs, has reduced the quantity of oil used. The amount thus saved has been devoted to other purposes, with the insane and foolish idea that in an inexplicable manner it may possibly strengthen the boiler. This is the work of the York tinker. At the present time the axle is so heated that after a few more revolutions it is my opinion that the wheel will be on fire. Smoke has been seen issuing from several parts already. Speed the day, is my earnest cry; for, when it comes, the boiler will burst again.

Really in reading this production of Jones, one is forced to the conclusion that his is a case of too much "lubrication," or in plain words, that the man can scarcely have been in his sober senses, when he penned such rubbish to read before a deliberative body of educated people. But how badly he gives himself away. It is the "bursting of the boiler" he longs for; that is, the defeat of the government. Does he care for his fellow teachers? Not he. It is the government he wishes to strike, and in this matter he is at one with his endorsers and applauders, the *Capital*, the *Farmer* and the *Reporter*.

At this stage in his composition a gleam of reason crossed Mr. Jones' mind and he expressed himself as "truly sorry" if there was no connection between "these rambling observations and the subject chosen." Ah! Jones, your good angel had not quite deserted you; and if you had listened to its promptings and thrown the manuscript into the fire you would not have stamped yourself as a phenominal jackass. But Fate willed it otherwise.

He then proceeded to remark:—

> I persume it is beyond the province of this paper to discuss the effects of the late changes in the school law of New Brunswick. But I deem it my duty to say that these changes have not been beneficial to the interests of education, but on the contrary have had an injurious effect. If, then, my view of the matter be correct, the blame of bringing such a state of things about must be upon the shoulders of some one, and the question seems to be: Who shall we blame? The Government? The Superintendent? The Inspector? or the teachers?

The crowning absurdity of the paper is to be found in the answer to these questions, for it is not the Government, for whose defeat he longs, nor the Chief Superintendent, strong, he insists, that he lays the blame upon, but the Teachers. Then in all humility, as becomes us in the presence of the successor of Parkin, may we ask what Jones meant by his nonsensical and indecent attack upon the Attorney General and Mr. Crocket? But Jones is not one who is daunted by inconsistencies. He is one who says with What's-his-name, that "inconsistency is the bugbear of small minds," and he goes on to show the teachers why they are to blame. In this connection it becomes necessary to speak of the people who pay him. These he calls "the grumbling taxpayers." Truly when they pay such men as he they have cause to grumble; the parents he calls "grumbling and faultfinding;" the teachers are "worn with toil and irritated;" their work they regard as "drudgery;" their position is little better than "that of a Roman Serf." The pupils are

> A crowd of unruly lads—over whom at home is exercised very little or no parental authority, who come to school often unwashed and with hair on end, like quills on the back of the fretful porcupine.

The teachers, he tells us, have no social position and "they growl like bears with sore heads" about it; they have no political influence, when by union they could exert "an influence which no government would dare to disregard," and so on.

On the whole we prefer Parkin, and although that gentleman has given in the columns of the *Capital* the fullest endorsement of the coarseness, insolence and ineffable tomfoolery of which Jones has been guilty, we scarcely believe he could have known what he was doing. Surely the teachers of New Brunswick will not display the intellectual flabbiness which a sanction of Jones' paper implies; but they will repudiate him as their spokesman and it as their platform. A document more disgraceful to the profession from which it emanated never received publicity, and we cannot regard the assertion in the Opposition press, that Jones expressed the views of the institute, as anything else than a gross libel upon the teachers of Albert County.

It is a thousand pities that the Chief Superintendent's desire that the paper should be suppressed was not acted upon; and it must now be abundantly clear that his object was to prevent the teaching profession from being disgraced, and not as the *Farmer* falsely insinuates, to shield himself and the government from criticism.

WEST INDIAN ANNEXATION.

THE GLEANER'S views on the annexation of the West Indies to Canada have attracted much attention, and have been commended by papers upon both sides of politics. Among those who have alluded to them is the Moncton *Transcript* which after quoting from our first article upon the subject says:—

> We think it is probable that commercially the Maritime Provinces would gain more from such a union than the Western Provinces; and if the whole of the islands were included in the union they might possibly act as a counterpoise to the influence of the West; nevertheless, looking at the present unwieldy character of the Dominion territorially, the conflicting interests that are continually cropping up and clashing with each other, the distance of those islands from the seat of central authority and the heterogeneous character of their population, we are of opinion that the expense, responsibility and difficulty which such a union would entail upon the Dominion, will far outweigh any commercial or political advantages to be gained thereby. The establishment of common-sense trade relations between the British West Indies and Canada will give the Maritime Provinces all the commercial advantages to be gained, and avoid all the political and financial responsibilities and entanglements that would be entailed upon us, by such a union.

The objections made by our contemporary are worthy of consideration, as they are representative, although they do not appear to us to be of a very substantial nature. In the first place we are not in accord with that political disposition which would shirk the responsibilities attaching to measures, calculated to promote the material advantage of country. The unmistakeable trend of Canadian thought is towards an assumption by the Dominion of the dignity of nationality; and in the light which the recent utterances of English statesmen casts upon our probable future it is impossible to regard the tacit assent given by the Imperial authorities to West Indian Annexation as anything else than a determination to present us on our coming of age with provinces, the possession of which has been in times past the ambition of the great nations of Europe. If Great Britain were to offer her West Indian possessions as a free gift to France, Germany, or the United States, how long do our contemporaries think the offer would remain unaccepted? Would questions as to patronage, as to race antipathies, as to remoteness or the like, be raised? Scarcely, we think. But the gift is offered to Canada, and if we accept it, we shall have the moral and physical support of the Mother Country in consolidating our Dominion.

Our contemporary's objections only need to be examined to make their insubstantial character apparent.

1st "The present unwieldy character of the Dominion territorially." If the unwieldiness is meant in a commercial sense the proposed addition of the West Indies would serve to obviate it. They would be the commercial complement of the confederation. If the unwieldiness is meant in an administrative sense, we have only to say that we do not believe it exists, or that any inconvenience is felt in administering affairs because of the extent of our territorial area.

2nd, "The conflicting interests that are continually cropping up and clashing with each other." Our contemporary answers this objection in part when it says that the West Indies might act as a counterpoise.

Conflicting interests do exist and they always will exist; they are inevitable in any country, especially in a country of large area, but they have never been esteemed a good argument against territorial expansion. We do not think that they are any source of danger to the Canadian union. If the Confederation is broken up, it will not be from petical causes; for the storms on the political sea do not really affect the great mass of the people. Industrial and commercial prosperity is their great concern, and if the Union goes to peices it will be because it has failed to produce this. We doubt if there has been a political issue since 1867 on which any citizen could be induced to load a rifle; and yet we are told, with much truth, that a profound dissatisfaction exists in the Maritime provinces against the union. The cause of this feeling is in the absence of prosperity, and this our contemporary admits union with the West Indies would tend to secure. Moreover it must not be forgotten that many of the "conflicting interests" are inseparable from the early years of the union and time will settle most of them.

3rd, The distance of the islands from the seat of central authority." So far as experience has familiarized us with the working of the union there seems to be really nothing in this objection.

4th. "The heterogeneous character of the population." Is this really an objection to the union? Does it make the slight est difference to a Canadian in New Brunswick whether 9 or 90 per cent. of his fellow Canadians in Jamaica are black? And if so what is the difference? It is for those who make this objection to show that it is well founded, that is to demonstrate that because a large proportion of the inhabitants of the West Indies are black they will therefore not make good Canadian citizens. The educational status of the islands, so far as common schools go, is not much, if any behind what had been reached in this Province twenty years ago, and it is improving; while the social condition of the black population has been gradually advancing ever since the emancipation of the slaves, and we, therefore, do not believe that their future as a law abiding, self-governing people admits of a doubt. Those who believe that it does should give the grounds upon which they base their opinions.

The proposal to establish reciprocal trade relations with the islands would not be approved of in England, at least it is so asserted.

While the views expressed by the *Transcript* are fairly representative of the opposition to the annexation project, our contemporary seems to be animated by the thought that however good the scheme may seem in a material sense, it may after all be merely an invention of the arch-enemy, Sir John Macdonald. The weight of evidence is against such a supposition; but if the project were one of the Premier's concocting, we do not know that the fact would afford any argument against the discussion of, and a decision upon its merits.

The *Capital's* subscriber called in the other day to stop his paper, and it appears from an account of the interview published in that refreshing sheet, that he "sassed" the editor. This leads the *Capital* man to wax a convention of editors. Pending the convention we may remark that the way THE GLEANER keeps its subscribers and convinces them of their duty to pay up and look pleasant is by giving them their money's worth every time. In this connection we may observe that the subscription price of the WEEKLY GLEANER is $1.00 per annum.

ARE THEY NECESSARY?

The Ottawa *Free Press* thinks our enquiry as to the necessity of maintaining the office of Lieut. Governor a pertinent one; and it tells us that the negative answer to the question expresses the opinion long entertained by the advanced wing of the Liberal party in Ontario. If this is so, and we believe it is, the advanced Liberals take a very common sense view of the matter. Some people will tell us that it is necessary to keep up the dignity of the Legislatures, and we admit this, but at the same time question whether the dignity of those bodies is the least enhanced by the maintenance of useless officers. It is singular that the same argument should be used by those who favor the retention of the Sergeant at Arms as is employed by those who believe a Lieutenant Governor to be essential, and no other argument is advanced in either case. The existence of useless offices leads to the tenure of false notions. For example, we have a Lieutenant Governor, and he comes down to open a new legislature. The Speaker when elected goes up stairs and craves of the Governor a continuation of the ancient privileges of the Assembly, thereby pretending that the Assembly owes its freedom of debate and its right to information concerning public business to the favor of the incumbent *pro tem* of Government House. Could any thing be more farcical? Yet we see it repeated every four years with an amount of dignity which is appalling. Again when the Legislature is prorogued we see the same officer assenting to Acts of the Legislature. Now as a matter of fact the Lieutenant Governor would not refuse his assent to a bill of his own motion. He must either be advised by his Council to do so, or go contrary to their advice and act under the direction of the Federal Government. To do the latter is to be false to his duty to the province; to do the former is to confess his uselessness. A two dollar and a half rubber stamp would do as well as a Lieutenant Governor, that is, if it is necessary that an absurd and meaning less form should be gone through with before a bill to which the representatives of the people have given assent should become law. We do not say that the Executive Government of a province should not have the power to disallow bills; but they could do it in the form of a communication to the Legislature. We would like some one to tell us of what earthly utility, in an administrative sense, a Lieutenant Governor is; and while we ask the question, we admit that every Lieutenant Governor we know anything about has attended to his so-called duties faithfully and has really had considerable employment of a certain kind. We should like to see the office abolished and the Local Legislatures run on broad, democratic principles. It is said that it is necessary to have some one in whose name orders should be made and laws passed; but this is one of the fallacies which custom has engendered.

John Smith is appointed a Justice of the Peace for York County. John Jones, Provincial Secretary.

Is just as good as:—

The Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to appoint John Smith a Justice of the Peace for York County.

By command of the Lieutenant Governor
JOHN JONES,
Provincial Secretary.

One is just as good as the other, and just as dignified. So in other administrative acts. We have grown accustomed to seeing them done in some one's name that is to see the form of being ruled by a Governor maintained, and some of us can hardly imagine that any other way could possibly answer. These forms are as meaningless and really nonsensical as the proclamation with which the Madawaska Crier opened the first Circuit Court in that County, viz.:—*Hawrie! Hawrie! Hawrie! God, King and seven Queens!*

THE INDIANTOWN BRANCH.

The announcement that the contract for building the Indiantown Branch of the I. C. R. has been awarded to Mr. J. B. Snowball, came like a thunderclap upon the ears of the opponents of the Miramichi Valley Railway. To think that after all their planning and wire-pulling they should have been so easily outwitted by the men they were trying to worry and annoy was about as nauseous a dose as they cared to swallow. Some of them would not believe the report. They said it was "a Grit lie;" but now that it is found out to be true they want to get somewhere into the woods and kick themselves. They vow that the branch shall never be built. Rather than Snowball should build the road, Indiantown and all its belongings may sink into the bottom of the Miramichi. But they are crying out in vain. They are powerless to stop Mr. Snowball and his associates from going on under their contract and making a few thousand dollars to put into the Miramichi Railway. Oh, but Mr. M. Adams and his fellow schemers are clever fellows—clever in threats, clever in plans, only not very clever in execution. There is in Fredericton a gentleman who is very much disgusted over the course things have taken. He did not tender for the work himself; but he knew a man who did, and the man who did and he were not likely to disagree about dividing the profits. It is beginning to dawn upon this worthy gentleman that "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft aglee." We wonder if he won't want to vote next winter to have the building of the branch postponed *sine die*.

CRITICIZING THE UNIVERSITY.

Commenting upon some remarks in a Fredericton paper in reference to the proposed reduction of the staff of the Collegiate School, the St. John *Globe* says that the Fredericton papers are very hostile to any criticism upon the University. We cannot at this present moment recall any occasion on which our city contemporaries have laid themselves open to the charge that they desire the University be treated exceptionally in this regard; but it may well be that some of these have done so. They are quite foolish enough to do so. For ourselves we see no reason why the University should not pass through the same crucible as other public institutions are tried in, and if it cannot stand the test that the fact should be known, so that defects may be remedied. It will not be denied that it is in the interests of the province that the University should be maintained. We have recently had proof that its curriculum and its capacity for instruction are such that its graduates are able to equal those from any part of the Empire; and this is not the first occasion upon which this has been demonstrated. If a student at the University does justice to his opportunities he can receive an admirable education. We also think that a little consideration will show that the University has not been without an important influence in the Province, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that in the future it will be even more potent, because it is comparatively only a short time since it became of any real utility in our educational system.

While we hold these views we are far from thinking that the University is all that it should be or all that it might be. All true friends of the institution should court criticism, if for no other reason than to give them an oppertunity of showing the valuable work which it has done and is capable of doing. The *Globe* must not think that our contemporaries to whom it refers are representative of the ideas of Fredericton people. This city would be glad to have the University become more useful, and this is sure to be the result of judicious criticism.

At the last Alumni dinner a gentleman connected with the Fredericton press and educational service made a lengthy speech, in the course of which intimated that from his point of view the University never would be more of a success than it has been, until it became denominational. No one present endorsed this view, and it is not at all likely that any one else entertains it. We mention it only for the sake of showing that Fredericton people are not so adverse to the criticism of the University as the *Globe* seems to think. There has, we admit, been too much of a disposition at Enccenias and Alumni Dinners, and in the press to paint every thing in connection with the University in the rosiest tints, except the financial side of the case, which has always been depicted most somberly. A change in the former respect would do no [illegible] the institution and its friends on their mettle and that would do good.

As to our contemporary's suggestion about the location of the University in St. John, we have not much to say. It is not all probable that any one will ever suggest such a change, and it is therefore not worth while showing why it should not be made.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONSENTS.

The first official and public step has been taken in the direction of the annexation of the West Indies to Canada. On August 28th, Lord Derby, Colonial Secretary, was waited upon by a deputation consisting, among others, of Mr. Neville Lubbock, chairman of the West India committee; Sir George H. Chambers, Mr Ernest Tinne, chairman of the West India Association of Liverpool; Hon. Michael Solomon, of the legislative council of Jamaica and Custos of St. Ann's; Captain S. Bridges, representing the Bristol West India interest; the Hon. A. P. Pitman, Demerara; Mr. C. Washington Eaves; Mr. F. Lubbock, Demerara and Trinidad; and Mr. Onlson. The deputation represented that the sugar trade of the West Indies was in a very satisfactory state owing to the competition of sugar to which a bounty was paid by other governments. They suggested that the islands should be allowed to make reciprocal trade relations with the United States, or arrange for political connection with Canada. Lord Derby in the course of his reply said:—

> Something was said as to the expediency of bringing about a closer connection between the West Indies and the Dominion of Canada. That was not a matter which had come before the Colonial Office in any formal or official shape, and therefore, he was not in a position to speak upon it except in the vaguest and most general terms. He could not conceive any objection on the part of the Colonial Office to a drawing closer of the ties between two parts of the Colonial Empire. So far from objecting to that, it was what the Government had always desired, and what they had always promoted as far as lay in their power. But they must remember that in financial and administrative matters Canada was virtually an independent country; and therefore the assistance which he could give the deputation in this matter would be of a very negative character. If the West Indies and Canada could come terms as regarded a closer connection, he might venture to say that under hardly any conceivable circumstances would the Colonial office desire to oppose itself to such an arrangement. But the question rested, in the first instant, with Canada; and it was to Canada that they must address themselves rather than to the Colonial Office.

In reference to reciprocal trade with the United States, he said:—

> You do not expect an answer from me on such a subject now. But I must point out that this is something quite different from asking for commercial facilities to deal with another country. You are, in fact, asking us to consent to a tax being put upon our manufactured goods for the benefit of those of a foreign power, in order that some incidental advantage may be derived by you in return.

This expression of opinion clearly indicates a willingness on the part of the Imperial Government to assent to a union between the West Indies and Canada; but it would also seem to be capable of the construction that assent would not be given to reciprocal trade relations with Canada. At any rate reciprocity between two dependencies of the same nation is scarcely possible. At least it would seem impracticable between Canada and the West Indies, as the different portions of the latter are unable in their present political position to make such arrangements. We do not think that any of the Colonial Governors are authorized by their commission to assent to defferential customs regulations.

It would seem to follow as a matter of course that the West Indian authorities will now make a formal application to the Canadian government, we hope it will be received and considered upon its merits and without the introduction of the prejudices and quibbling apparently inseparable from party politics.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Scott Act was sustained in Halton by an increased majority.

Lord Dufferin has been appointed Viceroy of India.

For about the seventy-third time the great head of the *Farmer* has evolved the remark that the Government spends money in building bridges for its friends. Of course the enemies of the Government will not use the bridge, not they. They will stick to the ferryboats.

A city contemporary is informed that the Chief Commissioner inspected the Marysville bridge and expressed himself satisfied and commended the contractors. Our contemporary's information is "away off." As far as the railing of the bridge goes, one of the contractors, Mr. Taylor, himself stated to at least two persons that the railing was too low.

They are discussing in St. John whether fermented or unfermented wine should be used in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The heated character of the controversy induces the thought that the disputants, in their anxiety to get at the letter of the Master's request, have forgotten the spirit of all His previous teachings.

King Humbert, of Italy, has shown himself to be truly royal. He went to Cholera-stricken Naples and investigated the worst haunts of the disease. He exposed himself fearlessly to danger, and in every way endeavored to allay the panic of the populace. He has won golden opinions from his people.

If the Prince of Wales goes to Ireland he will probably make the tour with the least possible retinue. His life would be as safe to-day in Dublin as it is in London, and he has too much good sense to injure the feelings of a sensitive people by taking extra precautions, which could do no possible good. If the dynamiters wanted to kill him they have had plenty of chances.

The Tammany General Committee, which numbers 1387 members, met the other night and voted on a resolution to support Cleveland and Hendricks. But how many were present is not stated; but the attendance was very large. 810 voted for the resolution and 87 gainst it. A number of the Committee left before the vote was taken; others remained but did not vote. The meeting was enthusiastic for Cleveland.

The Toronto *Globe* says that all feeling in favor of West Indian Annexation is gradually dying out as the facts of the case are being understood, and the grave responsibilities involved thoroughly investigated. We have only to say that while this may be true, the evidence furnished by our exchanges is entirely to the contrary, and that if the *Globe* has mastered the facts and weighed the responsibilities, it has not afforded its readers an opportunity to do the same.

Soft Soap.

In the first place, if your wood is poor, your ashes will be poor, and you will not have good soap. Take good care of your ashes by keeping them dry, and one week before the lye is required, put the ashes in the leach, pounding them down solid. This is easier done if the ashes are dampened. Then pour on water until the lye begins to drip; after which let the ashes stand one week to soak the strength out. The lye will be stronger, and the soap of a better quality, and not so apt to be "livery." Then hang on your kettles and commence running off lye. If the lye is too strong, I weaken; if too weak, I boil it. The proper strength can be told by putting a fresh egg into it. It should throw the big end of the egg up above the surface to show about the size of a silver dime. If the lye is a trifle weaker the egg sinks. With lye of proper strength, take a pound of clear grease, or its equivalent in common "soap grease," to each gallon of lye used, and set to boiling. "After the grease is "eaten up," if the mixture will "eat" or take the plume off a feather, put in more grease. If a white scum rises on the top, skim it off, or put in more lye. This scum is grease, and should never be left until it is cold. Boil until it looks soapy as it runs off the stirrer. If not boiled to thick, all sediment will settle while cooling. I sometimes try it by taking some out in a saucer and then by adding a little lye to one mess and a little water to another, find out what it needs.

AGRICULTURE.

Matters of Interest to the Farmers,

And also Some Good Suggestions for his Wife.

Pickled Cauliflower.

Cut into neat branches, put into a white cloth and boil slightly in salt water; spread out to cool, then pack into jars and pour over vinegar prepared as follows and seal tightly: Pound two ounces coriander seed, one ounce white mustard seed, one ounce white ginger root and boil all together in three quarts good cider vinegar in a porcelain kettle, adding one tablespoon salt and strain over cauliflower.

Chow-Chow.

One peck of green tomatoes, 4 large onions, four green and two red peppers. Chop, and salt over night. Press from the brine and fill your jars rather loosely. Now to three quarts good vinegar add one cup brown sugar, a tablespoon of salt, and when ready to boil thicken with one large cup fine mustard and one table spoon flour stirred to a smooth paste. Boil and pour over while hot.

Farrow Cows.

J. F. Scott, a successful diaryman of Connecticut, narrates two experiments which ought to be suggested to other farmers. He says: "A few years ago I had an old farrow cow which was poor and nearly dry on the first of December, and the question came up, 'Shall we butcher and her down for family use or milk and feed her for the butcher?' We had a good crop of corn and oats, and no milk for our table, consequently we decided to feed and milk her. She had good hay, corn and oats, and nothing else—no roots, apples or pumpkins. She furnished us with milk and butter to sell, all winter. I milked the cow one morning, sent her to the butcher the same day, and received $40 for her. All the products put together paid well. Last season I had two old cows that I thought not worth wintering. I commenced on July 1st to feed them two quarts of corn and oat meal, and two quarts of cotton-seed meal each, in addition to their rations of grass in pasture with the herd. We milked them until December, and I put one up for our winter's beef; the other went to the butcher and brought a good price. Both made excellent beef. This year I am feeding two more in the same way.—*American Cultivator.*

The Langshan Fowl.

The Langshan fowl was discovered a number of years since in Northern China, it is said, by an English exploring party under the command of Major Croad of Her Majesty's army; and it is to his exertions the credit is given for its first importation into England from whence America first obtained the fowl. In general appearance the Langshan resembles the Black Cochin, but it has a longer tail and longer comb; the plumage is different, that of the Langshan being of a beautiful greenish-color which metallic reflection is like that on the wing of a beetle. The shape is different, the breast of the Cochin being rather narrow and thinly meated, while the breast of the Langshan is full. The color of the legs and feet is different from that of the Cochin, the latter being tinged with yellow, while the legs of the Langshan are bluish black. In fact the Langshan and Black Cochin are totally different breeds in almost every distinguishing feature, and its distinctive merits may be briefly stated as follows:—

It possesses extreme hardiness, and matures rapidly. The great size that the old birds attain is accompanied with a full breast, yet the bony framework is quite small, and the flesh possesses a delicacy of flavor without the dryness and coarseness of texture so common in most of the other large breeds. The hens lack that intense desire to sit which is so essentially a characteristic of the Cochin.

Now is the time to give line in some shape to hens. They are rapidly exhausting the egg-shell supply in their system and you must stop the drain. So, give oyster and clam shells, the former are best, because they are the softest. Crack them fine. By roasting them they will pulverize better. Give lime in water. Use a low pan with water and lime in it. The water will take up lime, and the hens, knowing a great deal more about themselves than perhaps others do, will take what they need. Bone meal is very excellent. It may be purchased in most large towns. If you do not give the hens lime in some shape, they will eat their eggs.

When fowls and chickens wheeze and sneeze and choke and eat and drink with difficulty, they are suffering from catarrh which may soon change to the fatal roup; nothing more than a malignant and infectious form of catarrh. The cause is something wrong with the lodgings or run of fowls. Damp weather, and a wet house; a too confined run, an unclean floor, and other similar unwholesomeness will cause it. If anything of this kind exists it should be removed at once. Then the fowls may be shut up in the house and made to breathe the dust of fine air-slacked lime scattered freely about it every morning before they are let out, or every evening after they have gone to roost. A teaspoonful of kerosene oil mixed in some food for a dozen fowls will be of service; also to burn sulphur in the house about 4 in the afternoon so that some will remain until the fowls go to roost.

A MODERN MONTE CRITTO.

Restored to the World After Ten Years in Prison.

ERIE, Pa., Sewt. 1.—Four days ago, a well-dressed, finely formed, self-possessed gentleman knocked at the door of the humble cottage occupied by the widow Gates, who lives in the back country, some twenty miles south of this city, and inquired concerning the widow's son, who had left home ten years ago. In a short time the stranger's identity was revealed, and the widow's lost sou was in her arms. The name of the gentleman is Charles Stafford. Ten years ago he was a rough, uncultivated, backwoods lad. His life since then has been passed until Wednesday last, in the penitentiary at Allegheny, and the story of the transition from a boorish to a refined condition discounts the fiction which was the primary cause of the change. Last Wednesday Gov. Pattison signed Stafford's pardon and liberated him, after serving ten of the fifteen years to which he had been sentenced for a crime that should form part of the state. The victim of the crime is now a young matron, living in vicinity, and morbidly sensitive on the subject. Stafford, the ignorant, uncultivated woodcutter, was arrested, and was convicted upon strong circumstantial evidence. The strongest link in the chain was the fact that when arrested he wore the red vest which the victim of the crime noticed upon her masked assailant in the woods. The lad's assertion that he had been induced to swap vests with a man named McGahun, who said he was going West, was uncorroborated, and when a number of other links were supplied by some witnesses named Rockwell and one Reeder Moore, there was no doubt in the minds of the jury, and they convicted him in less than ten minutes.

Four years ago the man named by Stafford as the person who swapped vests with him died in the charcoal woods of Michigan, and before dying confessed to the truth of the prisoner's story. He denied being the actual perpetrator, but said Stafford was as innocent as an unborn babe. The confession was duly attested and sent on here, but was considered too obscure by the authorities. Two years later Reeder Moore, the witness who gave the most damaging testimony, committed suicide, and while in the throes of death he confessed and exonerated Stafford. The community began to fear that an innocent lad was languishing in prison. Lawyers of eminence and citizens of prominence proffered their services, and by degrees a mass of evidence was obtained that conclusively established Stafford's innocence. Through the tedious process of the state pardon board, his release was finally effected on Wednesday.

Being interviewed by your correspondent, he stated that when he arrived at the penetentiary and reflected upon the fifteen years to be passed there he almost went mad. His ignorance he saw was against him. The judge who sentenced him had adverted to his unintellectual condition as being in harmony with the brutish nature of the crime, and he had seen the approving nods of the jury. He felt that he could never hope to help himself or prove his innocence without education, and so he resolved to possess the power which knowledge gives. Through the kindness of the officials he learned how to read and write, and then he launched into the study of mankind as reflected in the daily press. The newspapers furnished to the convicts were devoured by him with avidity, and soon he knew more of the world and its doings than thousands outside his prison walls. One day he procured Dumas' "Count of Monte Cristo," and upon that work of fiction his future life was shaped.

Stafford, after reading this book, was more than ever determined to acquire that knowledge which gives power. There was no learned abbe in the penitentiary to dig into his cell, but for cell companions he once had a minister who had gone wrong and a lawyer who had not done right. From these he obtained much useful information. He lived now for revenge. Upon his knees he swore by the eternal God that each of the wretches who had sworn away his liberty should be made to suffer as he was suffering. By the force of his newly acquired intelligence he reasoned out a theory which plainly indicated the guilty party and laid bare the cunning plot of the conspirators. What was dark to him when an ignorant lad was now clear as daylight. The perspicuity of the letters he sent to his lawyers was remarkable and materially aided them in their search for the facts. United States Detective Benson followed up the clues thus furnished and succeeded in arresting four of the alleged perjurers.

Stafford's plan for revenge is to make the law his instrument in crushing them. Some of them have grown wealthy in the meantime, one being a rich banker, but he proposes to devote the remainder of his life to the pur