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"off Canseau, and on this news he went back to Port Royal." These early French settlers seem to have been men of indomitable energy and perseverance, and to have been full of hope concerning the fertile valley of Annapolis. There is something almost touching in the mainly simplicity of the following passage, written by Lescarbot:—"Finally, being in the port, it was unto us a thing marvellous to see the fair distance and the largeness of it, and the mountains and hills that environed it, and I wondered how so fair a place did remain desert, being all filled with woods, seeing that so many pine away in the world which might make good of this land, if only they had a chief governor to conduct them thither. At the very beginning we were desirous to see the country up the river, where we found meadows almost continually above twelve leagues of ground, among which brooks do run without number, which come from the hills and mountains adjoining."

Late in the summer of 1606, de Monts and Pontgrévé returned to France, leaving Lescarbot to look after the interests of Port Royal while Poutreincourt coasted Southward in hopes of passing Cape Cod, until adverse weather compelled him to return to Port Royal. Near the Cape, five of Poutreincourt's companions were surprised by the savages and several of them killed. The French having buried their comrades returned to their vessel, after which the Indians came at low water and tore down the cross under which the men were buried, took up one of the bodies, and by their gestures insulted the French, who would not come on shore. They had before yelled and danced in triumph, while the funeral service was performed. When the tide served, the French landed and replaced the cross and the body." The Port Royal settlers, while busily engaged in the culture of corn, &c., yet found time to enjoy themselves at the social board, as the following extract will prove. There was "established at the table of M. Poutreincourt *l'ordre de bon temps* (the order of happy times.) There were fifteen guests, each of whom, in his turn, became steward and caterer of the day. At the dinner, the steward, with napkin on shoulder, staff of office in hand, and the collar of the order round his neck, led the van. The other guests in procession followed, each bearing a dish. After grace in the evening, he resigned the insignia to his successor, and they drank to each other in a cup of wine. It was the steward's duty to look to supplies, and he would go hunt or fish a day or two before his turn came, to add some dainty to the ordinary fare. During the winter they had fowl and game in abundance, supplied by the Indians and by their own exertions. These feasts were often attended by Indians of all ages and both sexes, sometimes twenty or thirty being present." In 1607, Poutreincourt was informed that, owing to the establishment of a Dutch traffic in Canadian furs, &c., the friends of the French Mission could no longer afford to supply the requisite funds, and on the 3rd Sept. the colonists sailed from Canseau for France, and arrived at Roscoff, in Lower Bretagne on Sept. 28th. When arrived at Paris, Poutreincourt exhibited to the king specimens of Nova Scotian corn, likewise five wild geese, which had been bred from the eggs. During this year (1607) the English are said to have made a settlement at Sagadahock. In March, 1608, de Monts sent out several families, "but whether they went to Port Royal, or to Canada, Lescarbot does not say." * Lescarbot closes this part of his work by stating M. Poutreincourt's determination to settle Port Royal, and to take his family there. Lescarbot dates his work in 1609. M. de Champlain began his settlement at Quebec in this year, 1608. M. de Monts had now turned his attention and devoted his exertions to Canada. Champlain arrived at Quebec on the 3rd July, 1608, and began at once to erect buildings and clear land. Champlain says he was himself three years and a half in Acadie, part of the time at St. Croix, and part at Port Royal."

(To be Continued.)

THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The following extracts from a leading English periodical are highly instructive, and will doubtless be read with much interest. We regret that want of space compels us to curtail certain passages, but we shall continue the article in our next issue.

The framers of the scheme before us style their work a copy of the British constitution; but, as a plan of a central govern-

ment for a federation, it may be called rather a copy of the constitution of the United States. Ottawa, as a factitious capital, is the exact counterpart of Washington; and at Ottawa, as at Washington, we shall too probably see the least worthy citizens of the Federation collected together, during several months in each year, without even the tempering and restraining influences which the mixed society of a real capital affords, an unadulterated element of professional politicians, devoting their whole time to the undivided work of corruption and intrigue.

If the Federation is to have a central government and a capital, the question should at all events be considered whether it is not desirable to place the capital in a city, such as Montreal, where there will be some social interests and influences, to temper the pursuits of which Wilward's Hotel and the boarding-houses at Washington are the classic scene. Even the amenities of Washington debate might be a little controlled by the presence of a more enlarged and cultivated circle in the gallery.

A writer, himself a colonist, and one who has had considerable experience in colonial politics, lays it down as one of a series of axioms for the guidance of colonial legislators, "that it is a fallacy to assume that there will be found in the colonies, as in England, a class of statesmen sufficiently above the influence of sordid motives to take the management of public affairs from public spirit and patriotic motives alone; or that men who, by securing the votes of the majority of a colonial legislature, can obtain the handling of the colonial revenue, and the dispensing of the patronage of office, in addition to the distinction which it confers, will scruple at any sacrifice of the public interests which may be necessary to secure these objects." If there is any truth in this somewhat plain-spoken summary of a colonist's political experience, it betokens no vice or malady in colonial society, but, on the contrary a general prevalence of industry, and an equal diffusion of wealth. It does, however, make it desirable, before instituting a great central government with a vast amount of patronage, and an unlimited command of money, to pause and inquire, whether under the existing conditions of colonial society competent and disinterested candidates for the places in that government are likely to be found. If they are not, it might be a sounder, though a less imposing policy, to be content with a simple federation for the purpose of mutual protection, confining the Federal Assembly to purely federal functions, giving its members as little patronage as possible, and assigning to them only the power of calling for the necessary contingents from the different States in place of the power of raising taxes by their own authority, and expending them with their own hands.

These reflections press upon us with peculiar force when we observe the extensiveness of the powers assigned to the General Parliament in relation to public works:—"Lines of steam or other ships, railways, canals, and other works, connecting any two or more of the provinces together, or extending beyond the limits of any province;" "lines of steamships between the federal provinces and other countries;" "telegraph communication and the incorporation of telegraph companies." All these, and the patronage connected with them, together with an unlimited power of borrowing money, as well as of raising it by taxation, are to be assigned to that particular class of men who in America and the colonies seek their fortune in political life. And their powers are extended by a sweeping provision to "all such works as shall, although lying wholly within any province, be specially declared by the Acts authorizing them to be for the general advantage." Either the Canadian press is extremely calumnious, or the apprehensions which on perusing these clauses reason suggests will not be dispelled by reference to experience.

Federal fortifications, and other military or naval defences, are, in truth, the only kind of public works which it is obviously necessary to place in federal hands.

The advocates of a simple federation will probably be met by objections derived from the present state of affairs in Germany and the United States: but the first of these examples is, in truth, irrelevant, while the moral of the second, if it be closely looked into, is the opposite of that which, at first sight, it may appear to be. In the case of Germany, the federation is completely overridden and in effect destroyed by the domineering influence of two great military monarchies, the territories of one of which, Austria, are mainly situated outside of the confederacy, and form the fulcrum of a force external to federal interests, though exerted with tyrannical effect in the federal councils. There is no reason to believe that, abstracted from these alien elements, and considered in its natural operation,