

# THE BULLFROG.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.—We hope to hear from MICROSCOPE soon again; article form of writing preferred to that of letters.

We are indebted to Miss KATZMAN for late English papers.

To A. H. WOODIL, we have given your *Baking Powder* a trial and can strongly recommend it."

SNAG.—Thanks for your clever article. We must see the drift of the second portion before we can insert the first. We also require your name, although your individuality shall never be known without our office. This is our rule—in which we can make no exception. We think you will agree with us in this matter.

## INTER-COLONIAL UNION AND SELF-DEFENCE.

It seems strange that a subject so important as that of Inter-colonial Union should be regarded by the bulk of the people with downright apathy. A Union of the Provinces of British North America, implies nothing short of a political revolution, and yet its contemplation creates no excitement whatever. Several causes combine to render us insensible to a question of such magnitude—a question, compared with which all other political questions hitherto discussed in this Province—have been as nothing. In the first place, there is much diversity of opinion among those who have seriously thought the matter over. Some, are utterly opposed to Union; others, regard it as a thing all but accomplished, and fraught with much solid advantage, not merely to this Province, but to the whole of British America; others again, disbelieve in Union, regarding it only as a political watchword to which no serious meaning is supposed to be attached. For our own part, we advocate Union most heartily, but we think its accomplishment might involve certain minor contingencies which have not yet been fairly put before the public. It would seem the Colonists take it for granted that, Union once accomplished, our relations with England would remain as at present, an additional lustre being imparted to us by the presence of a ruler of Royal blood. This a is pleasant and self-satisfying theory, but it rests upon a basis purely chimerical. The presence of a Prince suggests an aristocracy, and we should have no small difficulty in satisfying ourselves as to the necessary qualifications for North American peers. The opinions which those high in office entertain, one of another, hardly justifies the assumption that peerages would be created for politicians on the score of character; nor would it be altogether wise to make peers upon hearsay evidence, adduced from the general tone of society as at present constituted. But, setting aside the question of an aristocracy, it seems hardly fair to expect an English Prince to mediate between parties which are by their own admission (vide *Chronicle* and *Colonist*) utterly unrestrained by the commonest forms of public decency. It would be nothing short of a positive insult to ask a Prince of the blood royal to make himself at home in a Country wherein connivance at smuggling is a passport to advancement in the revenue service,—wherein half a year upon party ground unnecessary judgments are created wherein Royalty's representative Retrenchment of 3000 dollars on the Gov-

the vices of the British form of Government are actively encouraged, while its virtues are kept studiously out of sight. But we would fain consider the Union of the Provinces in a light less purely fanciful. Of the numberless advantages of Union it would be superfluous to speak. Even should it lead to nothing more than an Inter-colonial Railway, we should have ample cause to regard it as a boon greater, far greater, than any hitherto accorded us. But we must not shut our eyes to the fact that as a united people, something more may possibly be required of us, than is required from us when broken up into sundry small sections, having various local interests. When men draw together to proclaim their common country ripe for a place among nations, they must be prepared to establish their claim to nationality by their own exertions. It is inconsistent to talk of establishing a Western Empire unless we are resolved to defend such an Empire to the best of our ability. Being subject to the foreign policy of England, we can fairly claim her assistance in time of war, but in peace time we have no actual claim upon British defence, inasmuch as we are not asked to contribute in any way to the Treasury of England. The possible withdrawal of British defence, in time of peace, is in the minds of too many Colonists allied with the notion of separation,—a term hateful to English ears. This idea is altogether erroneous, and utterly at variance with the policy of England. England would have us part and parcel of the British Empire, and the only tax she would impose upon us is that of self-defence. We defend our own shores, and in return for this most natural precaution, we are entitled to all the solid advantages of citizens of the greatest Empire of the world. It is surely not difficult to perceive that the advantage is all on our side. It is mere folly to assert that the presence of a handful of British troops represents our connexion with the mother country, when our real and beneficial connexion with her, lies hidden in a policy far beyond the red coats. The presence of a few battalions, scattered here and there over a vast extent of territory, is less suggestive of true British citizenship, than would be the mustering of various races in all parts of the world around the time honoured flag, at the call of the National Anthem. It is true that our connection with England does not allow us the power of making war or peace, but, on the other hand, we are relieved from the necessity of keeping up a large force on land, or any at sea;—we enjoy in time of war as much security as possible, and by the guarantee of the mother country against war, we are enabled to apply our revenues entirely to our own local purposes. It may be urged that the B. N. American frontiers are unusually extensive, and that our small population is utterly insufficient to defend them; but this is promptly met by the RIGHT HON. ROBERT WILSON, formerly a member of the Legislative Council, who, in his evidence before a select committee on military expenditure, says—"The position, the more dangerous of a few Imperial troops." Imperial troops is our