

Mr. Penny may sneer at the small population of New Brunswick, but we cannot forget the "jubilate" of delight with which the first defeat of Confederation was hailed in the columns of that paper of which he is the well recognized and self-avowed editor.

As for the pretension that the proposed expenditure of Imperial capital for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway could, in any manner, have affected the patriotism of the New Brunswickers, we look upon it as another very weak argument added to Mr. Penny's category.

The New Brunswickers never could have "handled £4,000,000 to be expended amongst a population of 250,000 people." If the much abused Grand Trunk Company were condemned in the first part of the pamphlet for their power of sharing in these so-called spoils, how can it be urged that "this population, which does not exceed a second class English City" could have more interest and more success than that all-powerful Company.

As for the vague assertion that the "fourteen-fifteenths of the taxation would fall on other people than themselves," we calmly judge it another pointed exaggeration.

The "paucity and poverty" of our provincial population, and the "absence of powerful social rallying points" may possibly "facilitate the execution of well planned *coups d'état*." We acknowledge that the "occurrence" of a legitimate coalition has so far tended towards convincing the sensible majority of these Provinces that Confederation must bring with it true success in spite of the rabid efforts of its sworn opponents.

We now pass to Mr. Penny's examination of the circumstances under which the educational clause in the scheme of the Quebec Conference was inserted. The Confederation Scheme, as clearly laid down by the Quebec Conference, provides with respect to education, as follows:

"*Clause 6.—Education:—saving the rights and privileges which the Protestant or Catholic minority in both Canadas may possess as to their Denominational Schools at the time when the Union goes into operation.*"—43rd Paragraph, 6th Section.

We are not disposed to measure swords on this point with the Protestant population of Lower Canada, because, since the adoption of the scheme of the Quebec Conference by our Legislature, some serious changes have

been made in the composition of the existing coalition ministry. We shall, in justice to Mr. Penny, quote Mr. Galt's remarks on this subject some time previous to his resignation during last session of Parliament.

In a pamphlet on Confederation published in 1865, we find a quotation from Mr. Galt's speech at Sherbrooke:

"He would now endeavor to speak somewhat fully as to one of the most important questions, perhaps the most important, that could be confided to the Legislature—the question of education. This was a question in which, in Lower Canada, they must all feel the greatest interest, and in respect to which more apprehension might be supposed to exist in the minds, at any rate, of the Protestant population, than in regard to any thing else connected with the whole scheme of federation. It must be clear that a measure would not be favorably entertained by the minority of Lower Canada, which would place the education of their children and the provision for their schools wholly in the hands of a majority of a different faith. It was clear that in confiding the general subject of education to the Local Legislatures, it was absolutely necessary it should be accompanied with such restrictions as would prevent injustice, in any respect, from being done to the minority. Now this applied to Lower Canada, but it also applied, with equal force, to Upper Canada and the other provinces; for in Lower Canada there was a Protestant minority, and in the other provinces a Roman Catholic minority. The same privileges belonged to the one of right here as belonged to the other of right elsewhere. There could be no greater injustice to a population than to compel them to have their children educated in a manner contrary to their own religious belief. It had been stipulated that the question was to be made subject to the rights and privileges which the minorities might have as to their separate and denominational schools. There had been grave difficulties surrounding the separate school question in Upper Canada, but they were all settled now*, and with regard to the separate school system of Lower Canada, he was authorized by his colleagues to say, that it was the determination of the Government to bring down a measure for the amendment of the

* The Scott Bill.