

sneer at "after-dinner speeches" as altogether unworthy of consideration. Such speeches would, indeed, be entitled to the most contemptuous rejection if it were the practice amongst gentlemen to utter one thing at the festive board and mean another; but every intelligent reader knows that all public men of character and standing, in Europe and America, frequently make use of festive occasions for the utterance of their most sincere and honest convictions in reference to important public affairs. The best and most eloquent speeches known to the British Parliament are those which are delivered "after dinner;" and no one out of Bedlam would be mad enough to disparage them simply because the speakers "fared sumptuously" during the day. There is reason to apprehend that ere long we shall be infested with a brood of philosophers and physiologists who will be prepared to determine the value of a man's eloquence by the exact quantity he eats and drinks; the less of both, the more valuable his eloquence will be considered. A school of philosophers, who regard themselves as Financiers, have lately arisen, and are prepared to shew to the world what the expenditure and income of any given country will be, even to the fraction of a dollar, for a hundred years in advance of their age. Those ingenious Financiers appear to work their calculations with empty stomachs, as they are loudest in their complaints against those who make *their* deductions in a more comfortable condition at the festive board.

The progress of Confederation has, no doubt, been checked by the decision pronounced in New Brunswick at the late elections in that province. The cause is not, however, abandoned, nor are its advocates discouraged. The elections referred to, were influenced more by local interests and personal feeling than by a calm and intelligent consideration of the great Question. The people of New Brunswick will yet see it in its true light; and will not, it is to be hoped, continue as an obstacle to the accomplishment of a measure which affects the interests of half a continent—which has certainly met with the warm approval of an overwhelming majority of British Americans, when taken altogether—and which has received the liveliest encouragement from the press, the people, and the Government of Great Britain, who can have no other desire than to see the Colonies in that condition which would give assurance of their permanence and prosperity.

Charlottetown, P. E. Island, May, 1865.

E. W.