

Everybody is talking about the weather. It is unseasonably cold; there are sprinklings of snow every day; the leaves are peeping out, and the lambs are gambolling on real green fields, and England is very pretty, and people are very well, thank you kindly.

Yours faithfully,

EAGLE EYE.

LONDON.

SIR,—Though your columns have hitherto inclined their readers to the belief that Colonial affairs were viewed with but small interest in the parent country, the recent debates in Parliament, no less than the tone of the London press, must, ere now, have led you to change your opinion. Two leaders per diem on the States and Canada in nearly every London journal for a week,—several leaders in the Paris papers, and four or five debates in the House of Commons, prolonged until late hours, are sufficient proofs that American and Colonial affairs are not without much weight in the political atmosphere of Europe. But if the eyes of Europe are now turned westward, it appears to me that a wise provision of Providence has hitherto provided those organs with spectacles of coloured glass. When a man desires to observe an eclipse of the sun, such optical accessories are necessary. When an Englishman wishes to look at the Colonies, the use of coloured glasses spares him much embarrassment. Nay, more; whilst the ignorance of Englishmen on the details of Colonial administration facilitates the labours of article writers and airy dilettantes in Parliament, it also provides a screen which saves politicians, such as yours, from the ridicule which many of their escapades and extravagances deserve. Were phrases, so common in Nova Scotian Parliament, as "slimy trail of misrepresentation and falsehood," or elegant articles headed, "another lie failed," known to be as common as they actually are, Nova Scotia would be thought but poorly of here. It would *therefore* appear that some good is gained by the ignorance of English writers upon Colonial affairs. The politicians rest in safety under its shield.

The excessively "woolly" ideas which obtain in the London journals on the Union of the North American Provinces, is fairly illustrated by the leaders in the *Times* of March 21st, and March 25th. Whilst in the former the defection of New Brunswick from Unionism, appears to the celestial commentator of but small weight against the consummation of the scheme, in the article of the 25th Nova Scotia also is declared by its elections already to have pronounced its condemnation of the measure. As to whether the defection of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick combined, has ought to do with Confederation, this dabbler in colonial affairs publicly proclaims his ignorance. Again, in the article of the 21st, Nova Scotia is accused of opposing Union upon SENTIMENTAL!! ground: The very suspicion of any calculation but those of

Dollars and cents, dollars and cents,
Taxes and rents, taxes and rents.

entering the minds of Nova Scotian statesmen is too preposterous. And again, the scribbler says that the prospective loss of the little courts is a natural cause for opposition. Since the perpetuation of these little courts is one of the most distasteful portions of the scheme, it is not difficult to imagine that this dictator of terms in the Thunders never saw the Quebec prospectus at all. This ignorance, however it may amuse the politicians of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, should cause Mr McCully some hesitation before he renews his hitherto fruitless task of becoming well known abroad. But more. We all know that one half of the world is ignorant of what the other half does. Now, it has been gravely asserted in my presence that the politicians of British North America have no object in life but their own advancement! So gross a misconception it was not my business to deny, but I did so nevertheless. I stamped my feet, I raved, I cried aloud that it was untrue, *mais que voulez vous?* The man who made the assertion had lived longer in Nova Scotia than I had, and said so. He shut me up. I had caught a tartar. He mentioned facts. I felt small. My burst of honest but ill-informed enthusiasm caused me to make but a poor figure, whilst defending the characters of your statesmen. But he not disturbed in mind O "nailers of lies" and "jobbers of jobbery," such men as the one I speak of, are rare in this country.

It appears evident from the tone of the recent debates, and the public press, that if money is to be provided by the Home Treasury for the defence of British North America, a Union of Provinces will be pressed by the Home Government on the colonies. That such should be done is but natural and fair. It will then only remain for Nova Scotia to make the best bargain that is possible for her. All those to whom I have spoken on the subject, admit the necessity of the next delegation assembling in London, under the presidency of the Secretary or under Secretary of the Colonies. The private distribution of places, which though, of course it never occurred at Quebec, was believed by nine-tenths of Nova Scotians to have occurred, could in London never be dreamt of. The scheme so constructed, unlike that of Quebec, would have only one side, and that side exposed to the light of day. No Colony could say with any show of truth, that it had been sold to make a statesman's holiday. No colony could doubt that all promises so made,

were bona-fide, given as they would be, under the seal of the Imperial government. It may be urged that since the proposal of Union comes from the Colonies, the Home government has nothing to do with the construction of its terms, and that, therefore, the delegation should not assemble under the authority of the Colonial Secretary. When it is remembered that the existing scheme was to be ratified by a measure passed by the Imperial Parliament, this difficulty disappears almost entirely. To one conclusion the history of British North America points most clearly, viz: The utter impracticability of effecting any great measure by a congress of North American statesmen. They never have done anything. They never will do anything. The commencement of a survey for the great railroad, is the fruits of ever so many assemblies of delegates. Let then a congress assemble in London.

One word more and I have done. The *Times* has taken the pains to assure us that the Colonies are as distinct from the mother country as was Hanover before its separation from Great Britain. Such an assertion could easily be shown to be fallacious by many arguments, but it receives a practical contradiction by the conduct of the Home authorities on this very union question which we have been considering. The general Parliament was to sanction a union of the colonies. Without their sanction, therefore, we must suppose it impossible to exist. The English Parliament had never one iota of power over Hanover; but as I said before, since the *Times* does not know how our colonies are situated, geographically, it can hardly be expected to arrive at their correct political situation in regard to the Parent country. Your obedient servant,

*** DAWDLE.

INFORMATION GIVEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BULLFROG.

SIR,—Not often, probably, does your contemporary, the *Morning Chronicle*, receive much notice on this side of the Atlantic. "Information Wanted," that worthy journalist heads the leading article in his issue of the 16th March, and if the echo from this side, by the necessary law of acoustics, is delayed so long as to cause your contemporary's wants to be forgotten by his readers ere the sound from such a distance can travel, he will perhaps not have forgotten the burden of his own song—and I proceed to give him a few words, if not altogether in precise answer to his question, yet conveying sincere and genuine information as to what is likely to be the condition of affairs between Nova Scotia and her Mother England.

If the Monroe doctrine is in favour with the Yankees, what may be termed the Goldwin Smith doctrine, is in growing favour with Englishmen.

England has scarce a dependency in any part of the world, that she would not gladly leave to itself to go alone on the deliberate and generally expressed wish of its people to that effect. Preeminently so with reference to her North American possessions. If, on the other hand, her Colonies seem to value the maternal connection, are true and willing to take a fair share in helping themselves in time of common danger, she will stand by them to the last. This, by the unanimous voice of the British Parliament is now declared with reference to the Provinces to be comprised in the scheme of British North American Confederation. Canada has made her choice and spoken out decisively. New Brunswick too has made her choice and spoken. If Nova Scotia has not yet spoken, by all accounts she seems to have made up her mind what to say.

The prospect, affording not only a hopeful chance against foreign aggression, giving at the same time a bright glimpse of future prosperity, and national greatness, has been deliberately rejected by one Province, and appears to be in a fair way of rejection by the other.

England is, however, not the less bound to Canada who has done her part and is doing all she can, and England is hers to the back bone. Every Canadian battle field is the battle field of England.

Will your contemporary tell us of what use to this genuine holy alliance are the Provinces that reject it?

I put the question chiefly with reference to Nova Scotia (New Brunswick obviously is neither useful nor ornamental, and whatever is said with reference to Nova Scotia in that respect applies with augmented weight to New Brunswick.) What use, I ask, is Nova Scotia to the Mother Country, for any purpose either of war, commerce, or national pride?

The Inter-Colonial Railway, so valuable towards the defence of Canada, and the development of the vast future, is knocked on the head and dies with the Confederation scheme. Can your contemporary specify a single fact, point to a single motive which should induce England to expend a farthing or prick a finger for Nova Scotia. The one thing that made her truly valuable is effectually shelved. Is she now anything beyond a mere incubance and useless absorber of resources that are needed elsewhere?

"Oh" exclaim the Halifaxians, "England can never do without our beautiful harbour for her ships!"

Is this really so? Bermuda, of choice, is the Winter Station,—For the Summer Station, in lieu of Halifax, Quebec, and the

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Jesty's Commi one in partic highest Politic quirements to Nova Scotia fisheries as a believe, who shielded from land would h fend herself, getically sup

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THE SUNT dence has be ance and M Company, in which he r duty to force cessity desire Sunday to cr do so. On t ments to Su trains at low and evening classes, who goods tra document yo rance of the passes by ne runs from ar taken off th diminished; b would durin

We beg to "Murdoch's next issue.