

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We are led to inquire now what would become of our daily newspapers if there were no Colleges.

Down in a regular succession have come "Consolidation" (all), "Didactics" (Acadia), "Hunt the slipper" (Fred-erickton), "Jealousy, Fraud, and insur-rection," (Kings), the latter now being "on deck." Probably any one or all these things are liable to come up in these institutions at any time, but why they should be dragged out in the newspapers to be the outlet for the ravings of embryo lawyers, conceited A. B.'s, and disap-pointed office-seekers we do not see.

True the subject of Consolidation is one well worth the serious considera-tion of all our maritime colleges, but cer-tainly not a subject for sentiment, gush, or ill attempted wit and sarcasm.

What we would like to see is these questions, when of general public in-terest, argued pro and con fairly, square-ly, learnedly, and with the argument based on experience and sound common sense.

Of "general public interest." Aye there's the rub. Is a case of insubor-dination in a college of such interest as to be discussed in the press, and the present and past history and future prospects of the college, its professors, governors and students criticised, ridiculed, extolled or scandalized?

We see frequently in the papers the fact that private quarrels cannot be discussed in their columns. The denominational colleges are private in-stitutions, and as such should do their fighting among themselves or in their denominational organs.

But after all, that is not the ques-tion. No one would find fault with legitimate argument on any of these points. The trouble is that there is too much flippancy, if we may so term it, too much of "the smart young man at-the-party" style about the thing which disgusts the intelligent and practical part of the people, and while it pampers to the tastes of a few does not do the least thing towards rectifying or reme-dying the difficulty.

Our correspondent on the temper-ance question must be a woman, for he, or she, seems to put the pith of his or her, letters into a P. S.

We understand that all the money it is possible to get can be used to ad-vantage by the Temperance Committee in this county.

Why they have been still so long we cannot say but we are of opinion that there is woe in store for the rum party at no very distant day.

It is quite surprising to see the ap-parent aversion of the electors of King's to the discussion of public matters in the press. Let something of no conse-quence come up and numbers of people will rush in, eager to make their ideas known. But all through these long winter evenings our rate-payers have time; and are thinking all the time, because they read the papers, of what is going on in the County and outside. One sees something that is being done some other place which per-haps escapes the notice of any other person in his locality, and sees instinctively that it would be good for his own county, if not his own village. He thinks it over, sees it is bound to be a feasible thing, but it is too much both-er to write a line to his county papers. He tells someone else, they don't understand it, and so it drops. Petty public officers squander the public money, not often dishonestly but rather ignorantly. The intelligent ratepayers grumble to themselves and among themselves. Perhaps they appeal to the Council, but the Council says it is confined to a very small section and we can hush it up. Let those imposed upon expose these things in the press and see how soon they will get the at-tention due them. True the press is sometimes abused, as we say above, with petty private affairs or nonsensical ideas but there are numbers of things which our farmers and others would find of great advantage and interest to them-selves and their families.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.]

To the Editors of the Acadian.

Dear Sirs:—As the Municipal elec-tions are over, and it appears that there is considerable new element in-fused in the Council altogether with some pretty respectable loyal talent, which, in consideration of the way mat-ters have been running of late, is cer-tainly very essential, I thought it would be a favorable opportunity to come before the public and ask for information. I see by the Acts of 1881 Chap. 1, Sec. 3, that "All the road and bridge moneys granted by the Legisla-ture from time to time for the road and bridge service shall be expended by tender and contract, or after competi-tion by public auction after reasonable notice and by contract entered into thereafter, and in accordance with such contract." I have reason to think that there have been large sums of money expended on the roads in Ward 7 these last two years; but I have not seen or heard of any job of work on the roads being let by tender or contract or sold at public auction. I am aware that this law has been amended or repealed, see Acts of 1882, Chap. 1, Sec. 4; but only to effect small sums of 20 dollars and under. I would also like to know what authority a Supervisor or Coun-cillor has to order work to be performed and wait until the next year's grant by the Legislature to get their pay, which I regret to say has been the case in Ward 7, to a great extent. Probably all, if not more than all, the next year's grant has been thus expended, and that late in the fall, contrary to the law of the Province, see Revised Statutes, Fourth Series, Chap. 45, Sec. 16. It looks a little strange to see public men leaving our roads in an almost impos-sible condition for nearly two years, and then just on the verge of an election to take such a sudden fit of patriotism and authorize the expenditure of such large sums of money, is a new wrinkle and without parallel in modern Legislation. I see by the Acts of 1883, Chap. 1, Sec. 31, "In case of destruction of, or damage to, any bridge after the monies apportioned have been expended or if the sum remaining unexpended is not sufficient to meet the emergency, the Warden may, if authorized by any by-law of the Council, borrow on the credit of the Municipality a sum sufficient to construct or repair such bridge." Such cases are a common occurrence of late, yet I am not aware that any such by-law has been passed. I also see by same Chap., Sec. 27, "It shall be the duty of every Councillor to obtain from the Supervisor or Commissioner of his district, who shall be bound to furnish the same, copies of all accounts of the expenditure of all the road and bridge monies in his district, and such copies shall be posted in some conspicuous public place." Yet I have not seen any such copies or heard of any, though we hear rumors of large sums of money being drawn, and it appears to be diffi-cult to tell where it has been expended. Now if the laws of the land are to be openly violated by every petty office holder, it seems to be a waste of time and talent to send men to Parliament to enact such laws. I will now drop this subject, at least for a time, though I could safely say that the "half has not been told." Hoping to hear these matters satisfactorily explained, I re-main,
A LOYAL SUBJECT.

To the Editors of the Acadian.

Dear Sirs:—At your request I send a few words of explanation of my last letter. The question as I understand you seems to be "Where did I get my information, and will I give it to cer-tain persons who I intimated might be interested?" To the first I will reply very simply. I am neither deaf nor blind. My regular duties require me quite frequently to be out after dark and even till quite a late hour. While I do not make a practice of prying a-round, I cannot help seeing things which come right under my very nose and which are very painful to me. Just who and what I have seen I posi-tively refuse to say because first, I do not wish to be in any way mixed up with it; and second, because any one with eyes and ears who will take the trouble to do so, can find out all they

want to know by using them for a few nights, and certainly if the matter is not of enough moment to those interest-ed to warrant a little trouble I do not see why I should bother myself and get the enmity of those who should be foremost in looking after this matter. No, Mr. Editor, I am not of an aspir-ing disposition and I really cannot af-ford to do any more than put out a finger post. If my warning is unheed-ed why—well I will not be
"A SUFFERER."

Dec. 9th 1884.

P. S.—I know a remedy. The Scott Act committee need some more money and when they get it will be ready for some more prosecutions. Give them a chance to work if you have not cour-age to do it yourselves. A. S.

COUNTRY NEWSPAPERS.

The country newspaper is the most useful and least compensated of all the agencies which stamp the impress of progress upon the villages and inland cities. Without the aid of local news-papers local towns are, as a rule, thrift-less and dead. It is common for small great men to speak with contempt of local newspapers, but the village news-paper makes more great men out of less material—more bricks without straw—than any other factor in politics, and it is the one ladder on which men climb to local distinction as the begin-ning of wider fame. The advent of the local newspaper has always dated the increased thrift of the community. The local newspaper is the life of the locality, and the measure of its support, as a rule measures the advancement of the people. Not only subscribe but pay for your local newspapers. They are friends and helpmates of all sea-sons.—Phila. Times.

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Wolfville, Dec. 11th, 1884.

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