

"of peace to train their maritime population to the use of guns, subject to conditions like those of the Royal Naval Reserve, and that in time of war those trained seamen should be available, under the control of the government of the Colony, for all purposes of maritime defence." Mr. CARDWELL further stated, in reply to Sir W. MILES, that "the bill contemplated nothing which was not to be at the expense of the Colonies." Of one thing, therefore, we may rest tolerably well assured—England intends that, as regards defence, both naval and military, we shall act up to the letter of the scheme planned by the delegates, and organise a local force "for local defence against a sudden incursion by sea." Now, we cannot deny that Canada is placed in a position extremely embarrassing, a position the resolute contemplation of which is sufficient to scare any but the most consummate masters of statesmanship. There is a terrible earnestness in the tone both of the British government and the British press, and Canada has before her but one of two prospects: she must either consent to be taxed moderately, or be left at the mercy of an invading force. This is purely a Canadian question, to be settled by the Canadians without reference to the maritime Provinces, and before linking our fortunes with Canada, for good or for evil, we should like to see whether the Canadians are prepared to further the Imperial policy, with or without Federation. We never regarded the Federation scheme save as a last desperate effort on the part of Canada to get out of her political difficulties, and we are still slow to believe that Canada has at heart only the consolidation of British Empire in the West. In the *Bullfrog* of Dec. 3rd, occurred the following passage:—"The politicians of Upper and Lower Canada having brought things to a dead-lock by their quarrels, see a chance of breathing time if they can persuade the Lower Provinces to join a scheme of their own concoction." A similar view of the case has since been adopted by the *Edinburgh Review* in almost precisely similar words. The Federation scheme, says the *Edinburgh*, "has, in fact, grown out of the crisis, or (as it has been called in Canada) the 'dead-lock' by which the advocates of 'Representation by Population,' have for some years past persistently impeded the practical operations of every successive government which has refused to adopt their policy." The decisive action of New Brunswick has, of course, saved our Legislature the trouble of declaring for or against the Federation scheme, and unless our delegates can make sure of a majority of at least twenty votes in the House of Assembly, it would be the merest folly to divide upon the question. To carry a question of such vast importance by some five or six votes, would virtually imply a vote of censure upon the policy of the delegates, and the Federation party would do well to avoid a division—at least for the present. It is, we regret to observe, supposed that some of the most vehement opposers of the Quebec scheme have been mainly actuated by a desire to overthrow the present Government. We are slow to believe this supposition correct. While careful to make every allowance for politicians in a young unpopulated country such as Nova Scotia, we can hardly conceive it possible that, on a question so momentous as that of Federation, any man could be found capable of acting from local, party motives. We have hitherto opposed the adoption of the Federation scheme for several reasons. We mistrust Canadian politicians, and are of opinion that, by exercising a little delay, the Maritime Provinces will be enabled to secure a better bargain than that now offered for their acceptance. We are of opinion that the interests of Canada and the Maritime Provinces strongly favor a commercial rather than a political Union. Canada is a grain producing country,—Nova Scotia is wealthy in mineral produce,—it is, therefore, for the interest of either country to have free trade and an Intercolonial Railway. Let us enter first into a commercial treaty with Canada, and so render it politic for Canada and Nova Scotia to be staunch allies. Then,

as either country comes to know the other, let us discuss the feasibility of a closer Union. But, at present, Canada is in a dilemma: let us see how she will get out of it, before committing ourselves to any definite policy. There is a crisis at hand, but the crisis hinges solely upon the action of the Canadians,—Nova Scotians being merely lookers on, at least—for the present.

Since the above was in type, we notice that the Government decline bringing forward the Quebec Scheme in the House of Assembly.

#### THE LEGISLATURE—MINOR DEBATES.

We venture to affirm that there is more nonsense talked in this Province about temperance, than about anything else. Hear the principle of the bill framed with reference to an Asylum for inebriates:—"Mr. LOSGLEY said the principle of the bill was to tax the Rumseller for the support of those unfortunates who had been brought to that state (? what state) by his means." This is a beautiful principle in theory, but like many other beautiful principles it could not be carried out without an undue interference with the rights of the subject. How could a rum-seller of moderate sagacity settle in his own mind, the consequences likely to accrue from the sale of his staple? Some men are so delicately organized that a single glass of spirits will produce intoxication of the most outrageous kind; others again, are materially benefited by a moderate use of stimulants. How then could a rum-seller be guided as to whom he should serve? Mr. TOBIN, very sensibly remarked "that it would be found, that the consumers would, after all, be the ones who would have to pay." So we should imagine. Suppose a temperance man became an habitual drunkard from living with a brother addicted to the use of spirits—would not the brother be more morally guilty than the party who supplied the house with liquor? We are glad to find that the Chairman of the Railway Committee has taken our advice, and had the rails near the ten-mile house set in order. A large number of petitions for grants of land to aged teachers caused the Hon. Mr. SHANNON to move an amendment:—"that this House considers that the policy of giving free grants, should be discontinued." He "did not think it likely that men who were engaged in teaching all their lives, would go into the forest and cultivate the land." It certainly does not seem likely, but it is wise to give them the chance of doing so, and it is moreover an economical way of dealing with superannuated servants of the Crown. The more land that is cleared the better for the Province, and we are glad to find that in Lunenburg, at least, Mr. KAULBACK "did not know of any grant that had been made to a teacher that had not been settled upon." The House was wise to vote against Mr. SHANNON'S amendment. Some mystery seems to hover about the affairs of Lunenburg as regards grants of Crown Land and Mr. TOBIN "would like to understand the meaning of these constant allusions to Lunenburg. If there was anything rotten in the state of Denmark, it would be as well to know it,"—whereupon a charming little discussion ensued, relative to the duties of county members to their constituents, their fellow members, and themselves. Mr. ROBERTSON "could not understand why the member for Lunenburg should be so sensitive," and Mr. KAULBACK said that he was "not at all sensitive (we are sorry to hear it), but there was a certain courtesy due from one member to another, which it would be well for the member for Shelburne to observe." (Ha ha). The PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, announced "that it was the intention of the government, at an early day, to bring in a bill to provide the same salary for the Governor's Private Secretary, as was formerly allowed." The question naturally arises—why was the salary ever discontinued? It was only \$1,250; and its discontinuance was perhaps the nearest approach to meanness whereof a really great statesman could possibly be guilty. Mr. BOURNOUT has been fighting for Cape Breton most manfully—"why was it that (in the matter of road money) Cape Breton should be placed so far below other counties of far less population? That was a legitimate question (certainly it was) for the House to consider, and whilst this inequality existed he would never fail to raise his voice against it." Bravo! Mr. Bournout—but wait until the estimates come under consideration.

Among the small provincial politics, is that which permits men by virtue of their sly system was for can be no two opin Session, compelled dence from their s ing then very high no obstacle, howev whom they repre individual member open to any abuse acted his ordinary franks left wherew considered a favor form, either by ho we think, be little vilage was accord spirit, and was ne whole families for Office. The Post money value of tl officials and recov expense of the ge sake of curiosity, expended upon th ters, parcels, &c. we greatly err, a those having no c doubtless very co by merely signit friends and casual abled to save the this, we maintain privilege was first A. should, in vir ing the general p might correspon acquaintances all ing returned for from postal rates the remainder of honorable membe but we cannot ho hourly abused. but of families, v out ever paying There is no atte more common th tion that,— "Th it is a great conv because, as a rul far fewer scruple concerning indir and it is indeed When a lady " and forwards hi she does so with an indirect tax v be on intimate t case. The lady those despatched but the lady pay to pay for her a would remind th