

# THE BULLFROG.

Nec sumit aut ponit securus,  
Arbitrio popularis aura.

No. 24.

FEBRUARY 22, 1865.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

## THE NEW MOTIVE PRINCIPLE.

The cautious manner in which the people of this Province have received the splendid promises of the delegates and their supporters, recalls to our mind a conversation which takes place between HAWKSLEY and MILDMAY, in the most popular of TOM TAYLOR'S comedies. HAWKSLEY, is particularly anxious that MILDMAY should take shares in the "Inexplosible Galvanic Boat Company," but his arguments in favor of the project do not carry conviction to the heart of his dispassionate listener. With reference to shares, HAWKSLEY, who would have made a capital delegate, says:—"Another week, and you'd not have had a chance. Perhaps it would be as well, though, before you connect yourself with it, that I should give you, briefly, an idea of our scheme, our means of carrying it out, and its probable results." MILDMAY, thinks so too, and his companion continues, in truly delegatic style:—"Steam, it has been often remarked, is yet in its infancy—galvanism, if I may be allowed the comparison, is unborn. Our company proposes to play midwife to this mysterious power, which, like Hercules, is destined to strangle steam in the cradle. But, to do this effectually, is the work of no mere every-day speculator. We require a plan of operations calculated on a solid and comprehensive basis. You follow me." To this, MILDMAY, (an intelligent practical man, such as Mr. STAIRS, or Mr. JONES) replies:—"A solid and comprehensive basis? I suppose that means a good lot of money?"

HAWKSLEY. "Precisely. Money is the sinews of industry, as of war. Now, to anticipate events a little, (after the manner of Messrs. Wier, Lynch and J. Tobin), let us throw ourselves into the future, and imagine our Company at work. We have created between the Ports of the West of Ireland and the United States, Mexico, the West India Islands, and Brazil, a line of galvanic boats—rapid, economical, safe, and regular. For rapidity, we can give four knots an hour to the fastest steamer yet built. As for safety, our galvanic engines can't blow up." MILDMAY then puts the question:—"But suppose the Company should? Companies do blow up sometimes, don't they?" To which HAWKSLEY replies:—"Bubbles do, but not such Companies as this. But, to resume, (in the style of the Reporter, Express, &c., when telling us—to purge our minds of former prejudices, &c.): economy we ensure, by getting rid of coal altogether—using instead our new motive principle. That is our secret at present. But (this sentence reminds us of Mr. McCully's style) you will at once perceive, as an intelligent man of business, the incalculable consequences that must follow from the employment of a new motive principle—which combines the essential qualities of a motive principle—the maximum of speed and the minimum of cost. \* \* \* However, to return to our plan of operations. At one blow, we destroy Liverpool—next, we destroy Bristol—that is, when I say destroy, we reduce her to a second-rate port. She will still have the coasting and fruit trade, and may do a little in turtle. We destroy Hull—"

"But stop—stop—stop," says MILDMAY, "I've property in Liverpool, and you're going to destroy everything. I was thinking—"

"Pray speak out. The suggestions of a new, fresh mind are invaluable," continues HAWKSLEY, after the manner of a delegate courting free discussion. "I was thinking," says MILDMAY, "that, as the general interest is made up of particular interests, if you destroy the particular interests, perhaps the general interest may not be so much benefited after all."—"Ah," replies HAWKSLEY—"there you get into an abstruse field of speculation."—"Do I?" says

MILDMAY. "It seems clear enough to me." To which the other replies:—"That's because you take a shallow view of the case."

Now, it seems to us that the delegates and their friends have all along been arguing in much the same strain as HAWKSLEY. They have been trying to destroy everything by means of a "new motive power" which was to electrify us all. That "motive power" has, however, never been satisfactorily explained to those quiet, sensible, work-a-day business men of which MILDMAY is a type. We have our MILDMAYS in Nova Scotia as in London, and they are men not to be put down by the assertion that—"they take a shallow view of the case." They may possibly take a shallow view of the Federation scheme, inasmuch as they can see to the bottom of it, despite the efforts of the delegates to direct their vision towards cloud land. That the delegates have really worked themselves up to a thorough and implicit belief in their magnificent prognostications, we do not for a moment doubt:—men, hardly, if at all their inferiors, as regards intellect and education, have e'er now shown faith in matters repugnant to the common sense of the world in general—Dr. JOHNSON believed in the Cock Lane ghost.—WHATELEY had a leaning towards table turning, and spirit rapping! But neither JOHNSON nor WHATELEY thought proper to quarrel with those whose faith in the marvellous fell short of theirs,—why, then, should the Unionist writers quarrel with those who cannot see in Federation a panacea for all the ills that thinly populated colonies are heirs to? That they do so, is manifest from such passages as the following—taken at random from columns of similar verbiage:—"It is clear that in the country the Anti-Union feeling now existing have manifested so formidable a front, were it not for a few ambitious but disappointed third rate politicians, with an old political hack or two thrown in, saw a prospect of overthrowing the Government, &c. &c." Now, supposing the Anti-Unionists to be all they are here represented to be, it is apparent they must have an uncommonly strong cause to plead so successfully against that vast array of talent to be met with in the ranks of the Unionists. But this reflection, has, doubtless, never occurred to those writers who, like HAWKSLEY, think to silence an opponent by saying—"You take a shallow view of the case." Yet, oddly enough, the brilliant, dashing, clever HAWKSLEY, was outwitted and confounded by the easy going, quiet, matter of fact MILDMAY, and the magnificent scheme of the "Inexplosible Galvanic Boat Company" fell to the ground, because people were slow to recognise the merits of HAWKSLEY'S "new motive principle."

Now, let us briefly consider the "new motive principle" of the delegates and their supporters, as also the means whereby we must fashion our minds to rightly comprehend the same. The delegatic scheme resembles that of the "Inexplosible Galvanic Boat Company" in at least one particular—"to carry it out effectually is the work of no mere every-day speculator." This is most true: the Federation question cannot (according to the local press) even be approached without adopting precautions similar to those observed by men about to enter upon a severe course of physic. We must, of course, beware of Quacks, who—"enter the arena of controversy, not for the purpose of guiding the public to a right conclusion, but throwing themselves into the argument from the mean and sordid motives of self aggrandizement and partisan triumph." (Reporter, 9th Feb.) Nor must we make the smallest allowance for any habits we may have hitherto contracted, inasmuch as habit, being only ten times nature, might possibly interfere with the working of the regimen, especially designed for our use—viz—"No narrow sectional views should be permitted to enter the discussion; no