

"why the country should refuse to participate in the advance of the 'Geological Survey' of this Province has received honourable mention, and that the magnificent sum of £100, currency, has been, or will be paid, toward furthering Dr. HONEYMAN's researches. The government has also assumed the responsibility of making an advance of £5, currency," to obtain copies of Dr. HONEYMAN's paper, read in London, Great Britain. It is almost needless to add, that the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, despite the large majority which sustains his government, was ready with an apology for the government's conduct upon the survey question:—"Measures would have been taken by the government for an efficient geological survey, but for causes to which I need not now particularly refer. It was considered *not improbable* that the subject would be dealt with in a *more efficient manner* under different arrangements, &c." This explanation cannot fail to satisfy all reasonable men. No measures whatever having been previously taken for an efficient survey, it is, as the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY judiciously remarks, *not improbable* that "under different arrangements" the subject will be dealt with in a *more efficient manner*. We are here reminded of Falladeen's final criticism upon the poetry of Feramor:—he had no doubt that Feramor would be an excellent poet, provided he consented to totally change his style of writing and mode of thought. Some twaddle was talked by Dr. HAMILTON upon the License Law, and Mr. S. McDONALD was justified in saying that "some gentlemen were influenced by their zeal for temperance to go too far, and try impossibilities." Mr. BLANCHARD, introduced a bill the obvious tendency of which is to counteract the efforts of those wishing to keep the Province well supplied with salmon. It would appear that a number of the inhabitants of Margaree, Inverness, complain that, "the act passed last session on the 'river fisheries,' bore hardly upon the fishermen, and was only for the benefit of gentlemen sportsmen." Well, Mr. BLANCHARD is one of the members for Inverness, and his bill was referred to the Committee on River Fisheries. We sincerely trust that the Committee may report unfavourably upon the bill, and endeavour to keep salmon in our rivers, albeit the latter are occasionally fished by "gentlemen." The petitions presented against Confederation have been numerous, and the government has wisely said as little upon the subject as possible. The debate upon the sale of Provincial bonds was highly unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it compelled the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY to defend the government against an imputation of secrecy and unfairness in dealing with public money. We refrain from commenting upon the issues raised in this debate, and will only remark that the whole debate was a bitter satire upon the folly of Responsible Government in a Province such as Nova Scotia. Imagine the leader of the government being compelled to say:—"There was no secrecy whatever. Every man was treated alike, and no preference was shown to any friend of the government." And this assertion had reference to the disposal of public money. What a wretched burlesque upon the British form of government!

#### UNEQUAL EQUALITY.

Boz's sketches of American life—Martin Chuzzlewit—and many minor bits at the peculiarities of life on this side of the Atlantic should be read with a devout attention by Nova Scotians. Mr. DICKENS, after criticising our neighbours in the States, might, had he spent a few days here, have added one or two highly valuable chapters on Haligonian institutions, and the little Anglo-American follies of the inhabitants of this city. Everybody must remember the fictitious General Choke, Colonel

Diver, and the others, who, in a country where all were supposed to be equal proved the absurdity of the assumption by lowering themselves beneath their fellows, by the adoption of airs, titles, and names which ill suited the puppies who made use of them. To play at being Generals, Colonels, and Majors, is not the peculiar vanity, as Mr. Weller would say, of Haligonians. The same sentiment, however, which acts with such ludicrous results in the States, exists to a certain extent here, and manifests itself at divers times and in various places. Our processions, every member of which feels separated for the time being from the common herd of mankind, are examples of the peculiar kind of self-assertion to which we refer. We do not say that there is any harm in such demonstrations—on the contrary, they may tend to good results by keeping societies in working order. They are, nevertheless, illustrations of the principle, that those who profess to regard, in a sketchy, general way, all men as equals are the first to assert as far as possible their individual exclusiveness. The peculiar vanity of Nova Scotians, however, seems to us to be playing at Parliament. Five or six gentlemen cannot assemble in an ordinary chamber to talk over a public matter, be it never so simple, without appointing a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer—voting each other in order and out of order to the hearts' content of those who, not being M.P.'s, or G.W.P.'s, or P.P.'s, or W.G.M.'s, are determined (if not themselves roses) to assert their privilege of living for the moment in the odour of political or official circumlocution. It is the old, old story, which Mr. DICKENS laughed at in New York, and to be appointed a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, or Director, has the same enhancing effect for Nova Scotians as a "bogus" Generalship or Colonelcy has for the people of the United States. We will give an example of what we mean by an account of a certain public (?) meeting which it was our good fortune to attend a few days ago.

Mr. PROXY POTTER, a gentleman well known in commercial circles, had long since conceived the idea that Cotton could be cultivated with advantage in this Province. His scheme, it is true, hardly received the assistance which its intrinsic merits would appear to deserve. He canvassed for supporters long and unsuccessfully. He was told it could never answer. He was laughed at. But Mr. POTTER had a great object in view, and the sneers of the narrow-minded, though, no doubt, somewhat vexatious, did not turn him from the course which love of duty, conscious rectitude, (and ten per cent for his money) pointed out as the only safe one for Mr. PROXY POTTER to follow. He advertised a public meeting, that the expediency of growing Cotton in Nova Scotia might be considered. It is true that before taking this step Mr. POTTER placed himself in communication with three or four gentlemen, whose only objections to his scheme were, its apparent vagueness, and the fact that "people say it can't answer." These scruples overcome, the four or five dubious gentlemen arrived at the conclusion that the meeting could do no harm, and since POTTER, their old and esteemed friend, wished it—they would attend. An advertisement followed. A notice in the morning and evening papers followed the advertisement. The notice was to this effect:—

"We see with pleasure that Mr. POTTER's efforts are at last about to bear fruit. A meeting on the propriety of bringing cotton into the country, (to be grown there) is announced. Mr. POTTER having given the labour of a life time to the subject, no doubt can be entertained as to his ultimate success. Success to the Cotton growers."

The meeting assembled in the Temperance Hall pursuant to notice; Mr. POTTER, sanguine of success, having engaged that large and convenient chamber for the occasion. At eight o'clock the lamps were lit and Mr. POTTER appeared upon the platform and seated himself unduly in a corner. For the space of half an hour, that gentleman, the lamps, and a young gentleman (who affected public meetings in general, no matter what