Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

SIR;—Last Friday's *Islander* contains an editorial article, entitled "The proposed alterations to the Quebec scheme," in which are discussed the representation and financial clauses of that celebrated document, known as the report of the Quebec Conference. It appears clear from the editor's reasoning on the subject, that he has very little hopes of there being any important alterations made in the original terms; and indeed he tells his readers so, "at the outset, that the equality deemed requisite in a purely republican government cannot reasonably be claimed under a constitution so nearly approaching the monarchial." Any person who has read the Quebec Report, knows that to be another of the misstatements of the Delegates. It is just the very reverse of what the editor of the *Islander* would make it appear to be. It bears no comparison at all to the monarchial constitution of Great Britain, and is as "purely republican" in its tendencies as it was possible to make it. But, says the editor, "if the Maritime Delegates will be allowed to 'have their own way,' the Quebec scheme will undergo important modifications." Will they be allowed to have their own way, though? I think not; and the tone of the Canadian press, and the utterances of her statesmen, warrant the belief. Now, when Confederation is about being consummated, unless that lucky accident—about which Mr. Howe spoke, intervenes—is not the time to look for better terms. It is not at all likely that the Maritime Delegates, who have destroyed their prospects of advancement with the people whom they misrepresented, and who have heretofore shown so much obsequiousness to their Canadian masters, will utterly ruin their hopes by flying in the face of those on whom they now depend for reward and preferment, and ask for better terms. Why, the Canadians would laugh at them; they would point exultingly to their signatures, and say those are the terms you agreed to, after mature deliberation, and you must be bound by them now.

Every one who has read the Quebec Report will remember that it begins with a deliberate falsehood. Its concoctors set out by stating that a union formed on principles "just to the several Provinces," would be beneficial to each, or words to that effect. Have they kept in view the spirit of that first clause? Are the provisions adopted by them in their report just to this Province? Our delegates have been obliged to bow before the force of public opinion, and acknowledge they are not, and I believe they knew so at the time they appended their names to the document. After abusing every person who differed from them, they now turn round and whiningly say, "Only trust us again—do, good people—and we will endeavor to get better terms for you." This is the burthen of the *Islander's* song. The proprietor of that sheet knows enough about business, I think, to shun a man who endeavored to cheat him once, and to have no transactions a second time with a party who would foist an article upon him for good, which, on examination, turned out to be worthless. Or, to put the case as plainly as I can, if he had in his employ a clerk who made bad bargains, who sacrificed his master's interests to make a good fellow of himself, and who, on being detected in his rascality, strove to bully and frighten him into the belief that he had done first-rate, would Mr. Ings employ that man in his private business, or place confidence in him afterwards? I think not; yet this is the case of the delegates in this Island, and it seems passing strange that any man would lend himself to foster in public men that which he would repudiate and denounce in private.

It seems unspeakably mean on the part of the Canadians—who are never done boasting about their fine country, its immense territorial extent and large revenues—to attempt to fleece a poor Colony like this, which has, comparatively speaking, no resources at all. And the duplicity or knavery of our delegates, in accepting terms which they must have known would be perfectly ruinous to our interests, justly entitles them to that contempt in which they are held by all classes of men in this Island. If the Delegates assembled at Quebec knew anything about the geography of the Colonies, for which they were forming a constitution, they must have known that this Island could not partake, for several months in the year, of any of the advantages of the large public works which they were projecting, and for which they intended to tax us equally with those to whom they would be a source of revenue, and whose properties they would enhance. Their refusal to guarantee £50,000 annually to settle the only grievance which this Island has to complain of, proves that it was for their own advantage—not ours—they wanted us. We, not any of the Maritime Provinces, never sought the Canadas. They have been persistent in their efforts to get us to join them against our will. Funds have been expended in New Brunswick, and, if report speaks true, in this Island, too, to corrupt public opinion. Bribery and false swearing have been resorted to in the former Province to carry Confederation, and with such a beginning, what will be its results? "By their fruits shall ye know them." "Every tree that bringeth forth not good fruit, let it be cut down and cast into the fire." Has the Confederation tree brought forth good fruit so far? Is the lying, the misrepresentation, the abuse, which have been used to forward it, and to intimidate people, good fruit? If it is not, let it be cut down and cast into the fire, with all other such rubbish. Yet, notwithstanding that Confederation ensures this Island nothing but increased taxation, there have been found men base enough to thank those who did their best to get them that boon—men who endeavored to sell the birthright of the people. Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. From his days to the present, and I suppose through all time to come, there will be found men mean enough to act the same part; but in place of being thanked, they should be branded by all honest men, and their acts stamped with reprobation.

Yours, &c.,

ANTI.

July 9, 1866.

The Herald.

Wednesday, July 18, 1866.

POLITICAL MEETINGS AT ST. PETER'S.

The Editor of the *Examiner*, accompanied by a Mr. A. Mitchell and F. W. Hughes, stole up to St. Peter's the week before last, to feel the pulse of the people on Confederation. But for the secrecy observed in their movements we should have been on hand to witness the fun, for it appears that the reception which the trio received was anything but flattering. We learn this from various sources, and Mr. Whelan himself must be now painfully aware how grossly he misrepresented his constituents in his advocacy of Confederation, and how utterly impossible it is to serve or please two masters. In no one section of the district has he been able to obtain an expression of approbation of Confederation, or of his own conduct in regard thereto. Finding, on the contrary, an almost universal hostility to that Scheme, as well as to himself for his connection therewith, we understand that he has publicly declared he will sink his views on Confederation if his constituents will return him at the next Election. Even this declaration, coming, as it does, just on the eve of an Election, will hardly secure his return. If he has made such a promise—and we believe he has—we know it cannot be fulfilled, for he has been pledged to Confederation, and he cannot, with honor or consistency, recede from the position in which he is placed. Far better for him to retire altogether from the contest than to secure his election by a promise which must, of necessity, be violated. The compiler of the proceedings of the Quebec Convention—the receiver of £400 of Canadian money, and of a large sum from the Confederate Government of Nova Scotia, and of this Island—cannot truly, consistently or honorably represent, in Parliament, an anti-Confederate constituency. The people of St. Peter's evidently know this, and are prepared to act accordingly; nor can any impartial person blame them for selecting men whose views, upon all public questions, are in unison with their own. Mr. Whelan has himself to blame if he has to look to Canada in future for reward and promotion, and if he is served in the same manner as Col. Gray, W. H. Pope, Dr. Kaye, and his other Confederate confreres who have the interests of Canada more at heart than those of their constituents in P. E. Island—that is, relieved of the duties of legislators, and removed from positions in which alone they are capable of doing mischief to the Colony. There is not one in a dozen in St. Peter's favorable to Confederation, and, notwithstanding the romantic sketches written after exhaustive festivities at Montreal, &c., about the golden prospects to be realized from the adoption of the Quebec Scheme, we think we may safely promise that this district will return two anti-Confederates at the next Election—men whose interests, as well as whose desires, will lead them to oppose Confederation and every other Scheme which is calculated to impose new burdens upon the people without any adequate return therefor.

A correspondent, upon whose veracity we can rely, writes to us as follows:—

"DEAR SIR;—I enclose you the Resolutions passed on Saturday last at the house of John Phelan, Morell. The Chairman has handed them to me since the meeting, and says that Mr. Whelan refused to take them with him. You will be kind enough to give them insertion in the *Herald*. Mr. Whelan did not get a very flattering reception by his constituents. At Grand River, Lot 56, there were no resolutions passed. Whelan's friend, Underhay, moved one to the effect that Mr. Whelan was entitled to the thanks of the District for his conduct as their Representative for the last twenty years, to which an amendment was moved, "*except on the question of Confederation*," which Mr. Whelan did not like; and, after an angry discussion, without coming to any decision, it was moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to the Chairman, which motion prevailed, and the meeting was broken up. On Friday, at Sutherland's, two Resolutions were passed, one condemning any Scheme of Confederation, and the other thanking him (Mr. W.) for general conduct, except on Confederation; and on Saturday the enclosed Resolutions. So you can see that in this District he is at a discount, and, I believe, will not be returned at the next Election. Confederation, except a few of your countrymen, (the last people in the world that should be for it,) has not a dozen friends in the District."

Moved by W. E. Clarke, Esq., and seconded by Mr. Ronald McDonald—

Resolved, As the opinion of this meeting that the Quebec, or any other Scheme of Confederation, if adopted, would prove highly injurious to the best interests of this Colony; and that the Legislature, in rejecting it, acted in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Moved by Mr. Wm. McEwen, and seconded by Mr. John O'Brien—

Resolved, That this meeting pledges itself to support no candidate for a seat in the House of Assembly who does not pledge himself to oppose Confederation.

HOW THE PUBLIC MONEY GOES.

For the information of our readers, we have culled from the Public Accounts of last year, a few only of the many extravagant items paid by the Government to its partisans and favorites. The figures speak for themselves, and illustrate the peculiar ideas of economy by which our model semi-Confederate Government are actuated, and they strongly suggest the propriety of confiding the purse-strings of the Colony to new hands at as early a day as possible; otherwise we may expect to see the revenues of the Colony "financed" after the Canadian fashion—which is being adopted rather too readily, and followed too closely to prove beneficial to the poor tax-payers throughout the country—and that is almost entirely spent upon officials, favorites, partizans, and in jobbery. We shall give those items now, and at another time may give more:

Wharfage for steamers, including Pictou and Brule,	£140	0	0
Buoy at Brule Harbor, Nova Scotia,	8	18	3
Sheriff's disbursements in serving writs, including Watson's bill for Scotch whiskey,	659	0	0
Delegations,	531	2	0
Victoria Barracks,	8,248	3	3
Disbursements for Troops, including freight of Officers' horses, per rail (£10 9 0),	799	19	2
Bill for clothing soldiers,	31	10	0
Accommodation for Troops,	110	10	1
Court of Divorce, including Col. Gray's pay (£9 6 8),	37	6	8
Whelan's book on Confederation,	31	6	0
Paid for apprehension of deserters,	106	15	0
Horse-hire for Troops, etc., etc., to the country,	162	19	8
Mr. Swabey, as Magistrate,	75	0	0
Col. Secy's pay, and allowance as delegate to Brazil, Member of Legislature, etc., etc.,	1,300	0	0

From the foregoing, it will be seen that the P. E. Island Steam Navigation Company, not satisfied with the monopoly which they enjoy in their steam communication, and the privilege of being allowed to violate their contract, in so far as to omit one trip per week to New Brunswick, in order to get a subsidy from the Government of that Colony for running the "Princess of Wales" to Chatham, &c., must have the wharfage of their boats in the neighboring Provinces, as well as in this Island, paid out of the revenue of the Colony. Outrageous as is this expenditure, it is just and equitable when compared with the sums paid for whiskey, delegations, horse-hire, freight of officers' horses from St. John to Charlottetown, and the enormously extravagant sum paid ex-Secretary Pope for chasing butterflies, catching sharks, and enjoying himself generally in the tropics last winter. Whilst absent from his office and his duties as a member of the House of Assembly, he received his full salary of £350 as Colonial Secretary, and even £30 for his services as a Member of the House last session; and then his trip to Halifax for soldiers, and to Brazil for pleasure, makes up the sum of £1,300 in one year. Comment is unnecessary on this extravagance, which, had it been practised under a Liberal Administration, would have doomed its members to the shades of opposition for the rest of their lives.

FIRE.

It is our painful duty this week to record one of the most disastrous and destructive fires that has ever visited Charlottetown. Four blocks in the most business part of the city, extending in one direction from Dorchester to Water Street, and in the other from Pownal to Great George Street, and comprising upwards of one hundred dwelling houses and places of business, have been destroyed, with the exception of nine buildings, namely, Peake's Brick Building (occupied by Hall, Eckart, and Tarr) west side of Water Street; the Bonded Warehouse (brick) do.; the Osborne House, (wood), do.; Mrs. Hudson's House, (occupied by Mr. D. Currie and Mr. McEwen), Great George Street; Mr. McQuaid's, (Tailor,) King Street; Baldin's Red Warehouse, Great George Street; the building on the corner of Great George and Dorchester Streets, (occupied by Mr. Mahaffy and two or three other families); Mr. Patrick McQuaid's, (Tailor); and Mr. James Barret's, Dorchester Street. As for the rest of those blocks, nothing remains to tell that they were ever inhabited, except blackened timbers, smouldering ruins, and long rows of desolate, naked chimneys. Even the buildings within the range of the fire, but which did not ignite, on the west side of Dorchester Street, and on the east side of Water Street, present a scorched and blistered appearance, which is anything but agreeable. It is calculated that from one hundred and fifty to two hundred families have been rendered homeless and almost destitute. The fire commenced on Sunday morning about 2 o'clock, in the house known as Bagnall's building, corner of King and Pownal Streets, but which has recently come into the possession of Messrs. Hugh Monaghan and J. G. Eckstadt. It was uninsured, and had been unoccupied for a fortnight back, so that how the fire originated is a mystery, unless we conclude it to be the work of an incendiary. The house, as well as some outbuildings in the rear of it, were in full blaze before any of the Fire Engines arrived on the spot, and, even when they did arrive, they were paralyzed for the want of water. In fact, the utter inefficiency of the fire department was as conspicuous as ever, and augurs badly for the safety of the city in future. The wind, which, fortunately, was not very high, was blowing west by south, and the flames rapidly spread west as far as the south side of Dorchester Street, upon the corner of which and Pownal Streets, was the shop of Wm. Murray, baker; thence north, up Dorchester Street, as far as the building of Jas. Barrett, blockmaker, which, although in a blaze at one time, was, after the most determined exertions, saved, and thus, Providentially, the Bishop's residence, the Catholic Cathedral, and, in fact, the eastern and western portions of the city in this direction were rescued from destruction. Mr. Barrett's workshop, and the large building—the property of His Lordship the Bishop—formerly owned and occupied as a private residence by the late Dennis Reddin, and lately in the occupation of D. O'M. Reddin, Esq., were destroyed. On Pownal Street the fire extended east as far as Water Street, and thence north as far as the Bonded Warehouse, which, being a brick building, stopped the fire in this quarter. Every house within this area, with the exception of Peake's brick building on Water Street, occupied as places of business by Messrs. I. C. Hall, Eckart, and Capt. Tarr, was consumed. Mawley's boarding house (the Mansion House) and the Express Office of Mr. Silas Barnard, are the most prominent buildings destroyed on Pownal Street. On Queen Street, the Reading Room, Mr. Herman's workshop, the Franklin boarding house, P. McGowan, Esq., proprietor, *Ross's Weekly* Office, the auction room of Mr. A. McNeill, and the warerooom of Messrs. William Welsh & Owen, the residences and places of business of N. Rankin and W. R. Watson, Esqrs, and of Mr. Bernard Reddin and his mother, were also destroyed. On the north side of Queen's Street the shops of H. P. Terliszick, F. McKenna, and several Public Houses; O'Connell's Variety Shop, Eckstadt's Saloon, and Martin Hogan's House of Entertainment, are also in ruins. The best known buildings on Dorchester Street are those of Mr. Feure, Mr. Holman's late boarding house, and Maurice Kelly's; those on King Street are Clarles McKenna's, Mrs. Duwar's, Mr. John McQuillan's Grocery Store, Mr. Stanley's (Shoemaker) and Mr. P. Blake's (Butcher); and those on Water Street are Mr. Henderson's house, Mrs. Lowden's, Mr. Alexr. McKenzie's (Confectioner), Gillis's boarding house, and the house next the Bonded Warehouse, formerly occupied by the late Mr. Little, latterly by a Mr. Harris.

From the time the fire got properly under way until it ceased near Great George Street, about ten o'clock, a. m., all the efforts put forth to arrest it were in vain. The wooden buildings went down before it like chaff or shavings; and, as the Catholic Cathedral was in imminent danger of catching fire, and, if it had, from its commanding position and height, it would have scattered destruction far and wide. It appears almost the intervention of Providence that the greater part of the city is not in ashes at this moment. Large flakes of burning shingles were carried for miles up the Hillsborough River, and the roar and rush of the flames, as they leaped from house to house, might be heard for miles round; whilst the heat was so intense that no person could stand within one hundred yards range of the fire, even on the windward side of it, without being almost scorched or suffocated. The streets and squares presented a strange and saddening spectacle. Piles of household furniture and goods broken and shattered, were scattered on all sides, and cows, pigs, horses and poultry roamed at large without regard to the City Laws, Hog Reeves, or Acts of Parliament. The want of water and of system and organization in the fire department were again made manifest when the fire reached Queen Street. With a sufficiency of water and proper management, the fire, hemmed in by the bank on one side, and the brick buildings of Owen Connolly, Esq., and Hons. D. Brenan and James Duncan, might have been stayed. There was no water, however, and the way in which clothing and combustible articles were allowed to accumulate in the street, and which, igniting every moment by falling cinders, gave the victory to the devouring element.

Thus, for the want of proper precautions and proper organization, property to the estimated value of £50,000 or £60,000 has been destroyed, and upon this large amount only £15,000 of insurance has been effected, distributed among three Insurance Offices as follows: The Mutual (local) £7000; the London and Lancashire (Hon. C. Young, Agent) £6000; and the Queen's, (Carvell Brothers, Agents) £2000, cy. Too much praise cannot be awarded to the officers and men of the detachment of Her Majesty's 4th Regiment stationed here, for the manner in which they exerted themselves on this occasion. Prominent, too, among our citizens we noticed the Hons. George Coles, E. Palmer, and D. Davies, and many others who have now escaped our recollection, who, both by example and precept, eventually brought something like order and judgment into the struggle to subdue the fire. Indeed, every person present—ladies not excepted, not a few of whom we observed in the lines passing buckets—worked with a will, and, in noticing the above gentlemen specially, we by no means wish to detract from the credit due to Mr. Bertram Moore, Dr. Strickland, Owen Connolly, Esq., and dozens of others who, we are sure, might be named.

At two o'clock in the afternoon a meeting—over which His Worship the Mayor presided—was called in the City Hall, and a committee appointed to collect subscriptions and provide food and shelter for the destitute. The Lower Temperance Hall, the Drill Room, and both Market Houses have, in the meantime, been thrown open for their accommodation, and not a few of the homeless have found shelter there. Mrs. Stevenson also generously gave a concert on Monday night for their benefit, and we understand that the subscription list is swelling into handsome proportions.

We understand that W. R. Watson, Esq., Mr. Chas. McKenna, Mr. A. McNeill, B. Reddin, P. Blake, Augustus Hermans, the Proprietor of the *Weekly*, Martin Hogan, and, indeed, we might say, every person who has been burnt out have been heavy losers by this unfortunate fire; but we trust that perseverance and time will more than replace the loss sustained. We sympathise with them all, for, whether insured or not, they must be losers to a greater or less extent by the suspension of their business, not to speak of the trouble and anxiety entailed by a calamity of this kind.

One accident only of a serious nature occurred by the falling of some heavy article from the second story of Mr. Connolly's warehouse, Dorchester Street, on the head of William Allin, (tinsmith). We understand he is now out of danger.

Disastrous as this fire has been, it teaches this moral, which, as it is an expensive one, seemed to have been imperatively required, and is all the more valuable—that unless an adequate supply of water, and suitable fire engines are speedily obtained for the city, and a reasonable check put to the further erection of wooden buildings in the business part of the town, we shall not be surprised to see it in complete ruins some of these days. We cannot, however, expect much from a City Council guilty of the folly of erecting a large wooden Market House on Queen Square—an enormous lucifer match, we might call it, placed in the centre of the city. It remains with the citizens at the coming civic elections to remedy this state of affairs, by putting men in the Council who know the requirements of the city, and who have the energy and ability to enforce their being carried out.

PURCHASE OF THE CUNARD ESTATES.

WHILE we rejoice with the *Islander* at the purchase of the above Estates, as a long step towards the abolishment of landlordism in this Island, yet we must remind the organ of the Conservative party that the purchase over which it holds so much jubilation, and upon which it seeks to base the salvation of the Government, might have been effected many years ago much more satisfactorily to the Government and the Colony at large than at the present time, but for its own stupid and factious opposition, and that of its party, to the Loan Bill of the Liberal party. The truth may be unpalatable; but still, the fact cannot be denied or concealed, that whatever advantages this Colony has enjoyed up to the present hour from legislation, both with regard to free trade and education, as well as to the settlement of the Land Question, they are attributable to the Liberal Party. After a fruitless agitation of many years, and the useless expenditure of thousands of pounds, by the present Government party, to settle the Land Question, they are forced at last to adopt the very means which they denounced in their predecessors in office, who were overthrown for doing—and upon a much better system—what the party in power are now doing. A short retrospect of the question will suffice to prove this, and to show the country what it has lost by transferring to the Conservatives the reigns of Government.

The first measure proposed by the Liberal party for the settlement of the Land Question, was the Land Purchase Bill, which was intended to be supplemented by the Loan Bill. Under the operations of the first, the Worrell Estate and Lot 11 were purchased. The first was not a self-sustaining transaction. The reason for this is to be found in the fact that the machinery required to work that estate was necessarily as expensive, or nearly so, as if all the proprietory estates in the Colony were in the hands of the Government; and also in that want of experience which always attends the first trial of any new measure. With more land and more experience, the working expenses of these estates become less and less, until at length they might reasonably be expected to contribute to the revenues of the Colony. The Land Office is worked by the same officer, and precisely in the same manner now as when the Liberals were in power, so that the Conservative Government can claim no credit for having improved upon the system of their predecessors. The Lot 11 Estate was self-sustaining, as has also been every estate since purchased under the Land Purchase Act. The Loan Bill, however, which was afterwards proposed, might be considered part and parcel of the Land Purchase Act, and, indeed, the most vital and important part of it. A loan of £100,000, at 4 per cent., was guaranteed by the Imperial Government; when the hostility and misrepresentation of the party in power defeated the Bill, and deprived the Colony of the most important boon that has ever been within its reach. Had that loan been obtained, it is well known that the Cunard Estates could have been obtained, at 5s. currency per acre, with the fishery reserves thereon—a very considerable item—deducted, and it is extremely doubtful if there would have been a tenant on Prince Edward Island to-day. With the defeat of the Loan Bill, and of the Liberal party, came a change of Government, and the chance of placing £100,000, at *four* per cent. interest, to the credit of the Colony in London, passed away forever. Col. Gray's humbugging Commission—which cost the country some thousands of pounds, and eventually brought it to the verge of rebellion—succeeded; then the Pope & Palmer delegation to England, which cost thousands of pounds more. The result of that delegation was the Fifteen Years' Purchase Bill, which surrendered the fishing reserves, confirmed the Proprietors' titles, and gave to the tenants a privilege which not one in ten could accept—that of buying the fee-simple of their farms at 10s. per acre, by paying the money down. This was the hair that broke the camel's back; and the people, deceived and goaded to desperation, were fast taking the law into their own hands, until the troops—at an expense of something like £10,000—were called in to enforce the "majesty of the laws." And now, after all this expense, trouble and misery, a loan of £100,000, at *six* per cent. interest, is at last resorted to; and the Cunard Estates—fishery reserves and all—which might have been obtained years ago at 5s. currency per acre, are now bought at 7s. 6d. the acre. Why, bad as was the bargain of the Morrell Estate to the Colony, it would have been much worse had it been purchased in the same job-lot manner as the Cunard Estates, and the fishing reserves thereon paid in the same way. This purchase cannot fail to entail upon the Colony a loss of £40,000. The superiority of the Loan Bill of the Liberal party over that of the present, is as manifest as their respective legislation on the Land Question, and can be as easily proved. The money, in the first place, could have been obtained on a long credit at 4 per cent., and, whenever required, could be procured by drawing at sight upon the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury; whereas, now, six per cent. must be paid; and, what is far worse, £26,000 stg., whether in gold or silver, must be withdrawn from our circulating medium within eighteen months—an arrangement which will be severely felt by our merchants and every other class in the community, in their inability to obtain specie or sterling bills.

Whilst we, therefore, rejoice at the purchase of the Cunard Estates, and sincerely hope soon to see every other estate on the Island converted into Government property and freeholds, we cannot help remarking that all this might have been done long ago upon much better terms in every way than can now be obtained but for the efforts of the *Islander* and the party of which it is the exponent. All the expense and hardship attendant upon the legislation of the party in power for those six years back, would have been saved but for their obstruction to the policy of the Liberal Government, and the Island would to-day have been twenty years ahead in general prosperity to what it is. Even at this late hour, it must be a source of some satisfaction to Mr. Coles and his friends to witness the very policy, for which they were abused and put out of office, adopted and praised by the men who abused them. It is the former who deserve the gratitude and confidence of the country, and not the latter, who, at best, can only copy after them—a truth which we hope to see realized when next the people are appealed to for their suffrages.

We publish, on our first page, the terms upon which Congress proposes to admit the British North American Colonies as States and Territories of the Union. Two millions of dollars will be placed to the credit of this Colony, the interest of which, amounting to £30,000, currency, per annum, can be drawn by this Government whenever it accepts the proposition, and receives the consent of the Imperial Government. Considering that the local revenue will be left to the Colony, this offer is a much more liberal one than that made by the Canadians. Considering that the Provinces have been given to understand that they are a source of weakness to the Mother Country, and that she is prepared to let them go whenever they desire to do so, we should not be surprised to hear of addresses being prepared all over the Colonies, and numerously signed, with the design of being forwarded to the foot of the Throne, and, while relieving the English tax-payers of a burden, and the Imperial Government of a great deal of trouble, praying permission for the Colonies to choose their own form of Government and their own rulers for the future. This, at all events, would speedily bring the questions of defence, protection, and British connection to the test, and prove the statements of the Confederates that the Colonies will, whenever they choose, be allowed to depart in peace, and with the good will of the Mother Country. A separation upon such an understanding would be mutually satisfactory, and would, we believe, receive the approval of the people of Britain, as well as of those on this side of the Atlantic. At any rate, if we are to be annexed at all, it would be much better for all parties interested that each Province should be allowed to negotiate its own terms rather than be thrust into it after a ruinous experience as a "new nationality" under Canadian Confederation, and upon such terms as may suit the Confederate Government. Confederation, we are told, is but the prelude to "independence," and, if the statement be true, annexation can only be a question of time. It is now, however, in the power of the people to select the time for annexation, which would appear to be an inevitable event, and to declare the terms upon which it will be consummated.

EXAMINATION AT MISCOUCHE CONVENT.—On Monday the 9th inst., the second public examination of the pupils attending this institution took place. We learn that the Examination was attended by hundreds from Fifteen Point, Egmont Bay and Tignish, as well as by nearly the whole population of Miscouche. Quite a number also came over in the steamer *Princess of Wales* from Shediac to witness the proceedings. The Examination passed off most successfully—the pupils exhibiting much proficiency in the usual branches of an English Education, as also in music and French. Two moral plays, the one in English and the other in French, were very well rendered. At its conclusion, quite a number of Prizes were distributed by His Lordship the Bishop, who presided on the occasion, and who afterwards addressed the children as did also the Rev. Mr. Quevillon, and T. Kelly, Esq. The Very Rev. James McDonald, V. G., and several other clergymen were among the visitors.

SUMMERSIDE is destined for greatness—that is, if we are to judge from its rapid progress in newspaper publishing. Scarcely a year has elapsed, since the *Summerside Journal*—the last No. of which, by the bye, presents quite an improvement in size and matter—made its appearance, and already it has a formidable competitor for public favor in the *Summerside Progress and Prince County Register*, the first No. of which now lies before us. It presents a handsome appearance, and is published and edited by Mr. Thomas Kirwan. The editorials give evidence of ability. On the question of Confederation, the *Progress* is on the right side, and promises to render good service to the Anti-Confederate cause. We wish our contemporary a long and prosperous career.

SUPREME COURT.

The sentences of the Supreme Court for the past Term were as follows: John Steele to be imprisoned twelve months with hard labor. He was convicted of stealing two lambs belonging to Mr. Praught, of Lot 49. This is a species of property which must be protected.

Thomas Joice, who was indicted for stabbing, with intent to kill, and pleaded guilty of stabbing with intent to do grievous bodily harm, was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labor.

Jane Rapson, indicted for the murder of her illegitimate child, was found guilty of concealing the birth only. In consideration of her penitent demeanor during the trial, and the fact that she had been kept in close confinement since the beginning of March, her punishment is now limited to three months' imprisonment.

Wm. G. Gardiner received a like sentence for an assault on Clara Gardiner.

At this Term, Mr. Edward Bayfield applied for examination previous to his being entered a Law Student in Mr. E. J. Hodgson's office.

ASSOCIATED FARMERS' CLUB.

This evening being the half-yearly meeting of the Club, the following officers were elected:

Mr. A. Stewart Chairman.
S. Bovyer, Esq., 1st Vice do.
Mr. J. McGregor, 2nd do.
Mr. A. Smallwood, Sec. & Treasurer.
Mr. R. Smallwood, Assistant do.

Financially, the Club stands in a very good position. The Receipts for the half year amounted to £18 9s 4d; and the Expenditure to £17 14s 8d. The Club intends offering prizes for the best fields of Turnips, of not less than half an acre. A small quantity of Broom Corn Seed was obtained and distributed to various persons to test its growth on the Island. So far it is very promising.

The next meeting will be on Saturday evening the 21st.—*Com. to Isl.*

Last evening a meeting was held near the Mount Mellish School House, Lot 49, to discuss the subject of Confederation. At about 3 o'clock, the chair was taken by Alex. McRae, Esq., and Mr. McNeill, teacher, was appointed secretary. The meeting was addressed by the Hon. George Beer, J. B. Cooper, Esq., the Hon. E. Palmer, Mr. Stewart and Mr. J. H. Fletcher, after which Resolutions were adopted strongly condemnatory of the Quebec Scheme, and pledging the meeting to support no candidate at the approaching general election, who will not pledge himself to oppose Confederation *on any terms*. Owing to the lateness of the hour when the meeting was brought to a close, we are unable to give a fuller and more satisfactory account of this meeting in our present issue.—*Bul.*

We observe by the *Examiner*, that a reward of Twenty Pounds is offered for the discovery of the miscreant who daubed the face of the residence of W. Dodd, Esq., Commission Merchant, Queen St., with coal tar, on the night of Thursday, the 5th inst. We hope the rascal may be discovered, and that he will be paid off with a good coat of tar and feathers.

By an advertisement in the last Royal Gazette it will be seen that His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, in Council, has ordered that Offices be opened in the following places, for the purpose of issuing Licenses to American Fishermen who are desirous of fishing on the coasts of this Island:—Cascumpec, Richmond Bay, Georgetown and Souris.

Her Majesty's Ship *Barracouta*, Capt. Bevan, sent into the Gulf for the protection of the Fisheries, on the North coast of this Island, was in Georgetown on Wednesday last. The Capt. proceeded on to Charlottetown, overland, for the purpose of procuring the services of a competent pilot, and returned to his ship yesterday.—*Isl.*

We understand that His Excellency Sir Fenwick Williams, Lieut Governor of Nova Scotia, and Major General Doyle, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in the Lower Provinces, are shortly expected here on a visit to His Excellency Governor Dundas.—*Isl.*

The Ship *Lady Seymour*, from Bristol, for Quebec, was totally lost at Cacouna, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a few days since. The Lady Seymour belonged to Mr. Yeo, Port Hill.