

assertion that a large proportion of the wealth, intellect and population of the capital was in favour of union with Canada. It was the more incumbent on them to do this because, while it was notorious that the whole Anti-confederate party and the Provincial Government would keep aloof, it was at least within the bounds of possibility that some deliberate insult would be offered to His Excellency. Fortunately for the credit of Halifax, "the harmony of the proceedings" was not interrupted; although, as if to show that the idea of insulting the Representative of the Queen and the head of the Dominion was not altogether alien to the more ardent spirits of the Anti-confederate party, a malcontent clothier stretched across the line of the then expected procession a string of garments which, as they fluttered in the breeze, advertised the political grievances (and, we may add, the indecent vulgarity) as well as the commercial pursuits of their owner.* A so-called public dinner was given to Lord Lisgar, which was apparently accepted solely because of the opportunity which it afforded him of correcting a misconstruction which had been put upon an ill-considered expression of which he had lately made use at Quebec. During His Excellency's stay in Halifax the Provincial Government and the "Anti" party studiously absented themselves from Government House, and abstained from paying the commonest courtesies to the Representative of Her Majesty, because he represented also "the hateful Dominion." To make the distinction, as they

thought, the more marked, and to testify their own loyalty to the Crown, they hastened to pay their respects to Prince Arthur, when H. R. H. landed shortly afterwards; but as the youthful scion of the Royal Family placed himself as unreservedly in the hands of Sir John Young as his elder brother had done with the Duke of Newcastle, and gracefully maintained that Her Captain-General was the true representative of his august mother in the Dominion, it became impossible to distinguish between the cheers which greeted the Prince and the welcome which was accorded to His Excellency. In the confusion a better feeling was created; enthusiasm swept away differences; corners were rubbed off and bitterness was mitigated; and once again the cry of Loyalty did useful, but perhaps unfair, service to the cause of Confederation.

We have dwelt at some length on these incidents, in order to bring out the contrast between the occurrences of 1869 and those of 1873. Time moves rapidly nowadays. Four or five years mark an era of no little importance in the progress of a State; and during that time new politicians are coming to the front, and our future leaders are growing up, who are forgetful or ignorant of the facts that occurred just before their own days. For what epoch so difficult to master as that of one's own boyhood? It is not history: it has no place in Pinnock, and is not yet written in the chronicles of Markham. To say "that was before my time" is a confession of juvenility which some of us, males at least, hesitate to make. To write contemporary history, however, is more than difficult; and the attempt to do so is of at least doubtful expediency. But a few years make a great difference. In the gap of one or two *lustra* many surface bubbles burst and much scum is swept away. Local incidents, all engrossing at the time, shrivel to their due importance, and the once "startling events" contract to the size of very second-rate occurrences. Perhaps then the

* This, the only approach to an actual collision between the two parties, resulted in amusement to many, gain to several, and loss to one. Shortly after the display was seen to be neither strictly loyal nor purely decorative, a truck was rapidly driven down the street, and, a weighted rope being deftly thrown over the obnoxious line, it soon snapped, and amid much laughter the fluttering "reach-me-downs" were appropriated by the more necessitous of the bystanders. An action was brought for the recovery of the goods; but we fancy that, as in many other cases, the litigation benefited only the lawyers.