

two persons, seems to have been seized upon by the Governor as a pretext for outrageous severity, and about two thousand lives were reported to have been taken in a few days in punishment for the riot. A commission has examined into the matter, and the final decision is awaited with interest. It was thought by the friends of liberal ideas that such a destruction of life was purely wanton and useless, and indicated either cowardice or bloodthirstiness on the part of the Governor. And yet some of the most celebrated persons in England have espoused the cause of the Jamaica authorities. The circumstance was a misfortune if not a shame to the British name.

Another interesting feature of the year has been the quiet discussion of the Confederation Scheme in relation to the Provinces. This measure, so unpopular among the smaller Provinces, "drags its slow length along" with some prospect of final adoption by the Home Government. The advantages to our Island from absorption into a quasi-republic, are not so evident as to make the proposed change desirable; and time—the great conservator of the good which never dies, and destroyer of evil—may so elaborate the question in the near future as to spread it over with rainbow hues and cause our people to grasp at what may seem to be substance.

There has been during the year no lack of activity in the business interests of the Provinces. The fisheries have done well—the coal and lumbering departments have not languished; the mining question has not been severely agitated. For the frauds of some two years ago, when discovered, so damped the ardor of the people, that but little interest has been felt in the mining matters for the last two years, especially gold

mining. The Pacific coast has had its own history in this department, and is quietly jogging along without much excitement.

Our neighbor, the United States, has presented a field of activity and general interest for the whole year. The rebellion closing in the Summer of 1865, so far as active hostilities were concerned, left the country with an enormous debt of some three billions of dollars, a deranged currency, a divided people, an unreconstructed Union, an accidental President, an uncertain state of affairs, and a million of men to be mustered out of service, and five hundred vessels in commission to be disposed of. The last winter session of Congress soon developed a divergency of views between the President and Congress, which grew worse as the session went on till about Feb. 20th, he vetoed an important bill perfected for the protection of the recently emancipated blacks. His speech to the company assembled on the 22d, at the White House, showed the rancorous spirit he felt towards the Republicans of Congress, and made the gap between them so wide that it has never been bridged, and probably never will be. His veto was sustained in the Senate by the defection of some four or five Senators who could not exactly see how the "cat would jump," but rather thought the President would win the battle. The quarrel went on with considerable fierceness, for the rest of the year, up to the closing elections in November. It was soon apparent after the President broke with the party that elected him, that the people would sustain Congress. In due time the "Civil Rights' Bill," so called, was passed, which gave to the freedman his civil rights denied him by some of the States, which bill the President also vetoed, but it was passed right over