

THE BULLFROG.

"Morturi te Salutant!"

No. 33.

APRIL 29, 1865.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

NOTICE.

The publication of the *Bullfrog* ceases with this issue—Parties having any claim upon us will please forward the same to the office.

THE UNION SCHEME.—ITS POSSIBLE RESULTS.

The opponents of the Quebec scheme are fond of asserting that—for all practical purposes—Confederation is dead and buried. Is it so? We fancy not, indeed, to our thinking, some very practical results are likely to follow the discussions of the past six months. The Union question has been so well aired in the Colonial parliaments, and in the British and Colonial press, that neither Englishmen nor Colonists are likely to let the matter drop altogether. We took no small pains to bring our affairs prominently before the Mother Country, and we cannot expect to take up the time of British statesmen to no purpose. We went out of our way to call attention to British North America, and in so doing gave Englishmen an opportunity of speaking their minds pretty freely. That the opportunity will be made the most of across the Atlantic we have no doubt whatever. The late unsettled aspect of American affairs, while causing some little anxiety regarding Canada, may also, possibly, have sealed the lips of Englishmen upon the unsatisfactory relations which have hitherto existed between England and her North American possessions. It was not a time of irritation about Alabama and raiders that England would have chosen to hint at the propriety of Colonial self-defence; but when the Colonists voluntarily called England's attention to what they thought their danger—*then*, England spoke out in a manner which could not be misunderstood, and nervously and eagerly urged the Colonists to arm in defence of their own shores. And from the moment the Quebec scheme was in the hands of Mr. CARDWELL, England was in a position to demand of these Colonies better terms than she has hitherto obtained at our hands. The Quebec scheme promised so much that English statesmen were fairly taken by surprise. A colony that but three years ago refused to spend a trifle extra upon militia organization, now pledged itself to keep up both a naval and a military force, together with all those costly appliances commonly known as "munitions of war." Had the N. American Colonists really been able and willing to set up to the letter of the programme drawn out by the delegates, the Quebec scheme would have been one of the most remarkable proofs of self-denying loyalty on record. However much England may have wished to alter the hollow, unreasonable, and unnatural compact which existed between her and these Colonies, she would never have exacted more from the latter than did the Quebec scheme. "But," says the *Chronicle*, "Federation is dead and buried." True,—but its works will fill us it, and the next terms offered us will probably come from England. Having declared ourselves, through our delegates, in favor of a vast constitutional change—a change professing enormous self-denial—we can hardly be surprised if England refuses to let us remain exactly as we were before the Union question was broached. Unless we greatly err, the time has arrived when these Colonies

can no longer fairly expect to occupy a false position with regard to Great Britain. That, since the introduction of Responsible Government, they have occupied a false position towards England, and England towards them, no reasonable man will deny; indeed, as Lord GREY formerly remarked: "It is the greatest blunder than can be committed, that we should on the one hand tell the Colonists that we will be responsible for the cost of war, and take upon ourselves the burthen of defending them; and that, on the other hand, they should have the power of regulating the policy which may make a war necessary or not." The only claim the Colonies have upon the Mother Country for protection, lies in the fact that they are subject to England's foreign policy; but, on the other hand, England may be involved in warfare for Colonial interests. It is manifestly unjust to tax a man living in Yorkshire, to relieve Nova Scotians from a taxation required for their own defence. Nova Scotians may, it is true, be attacked for a quarrel purely English, but it is for the Colonists to consider whether the advantages consequent upon being part of the British Empire, do not weigh against a probability which their connection with England so materially diminishes. If we are liable to attack because the Union Jack floats above our heads, we would be none the less so beneath any other standard. It must not be supposed that England could not survive the loss of these Colonies,—on the contrary, their loss rather weakens than strengthens the Empire, as the necessity of protecting Colonies all over the world is the main element of England's weakness. Upon this subject, Mr. GODLEY (a member of a Departmental Committee on Military Defences, in 1859,) stated in evidence before a Select Committee on Colonial Military Expenditure:—"It appears to me, that if those stations which we keep for coaling, and refitting ships, are essential to the interests of the empire, the better plan would be, if we were stronger at sea, to occupy them when war broke out; if we were not stronger at sea, our garrisons would be ineffectual in defending them. The plan now is to scatter garrisons over the world, on the chance that they may be wanted. I should propose keeping the troops at home, and sending them to the place where they were wanted when war broke out. The Bahamas happen to be a case particularly in point. * * Since the peace of 1814, we have spent nearly two millions of money in defending the Bahamas; and during all that time, we have never had a force there that could have resisted the crews of two frigates." And Mr. GLADSTONE also gave evidence, as follows:—"I cannot view any portion of the benefit resulting to England, from the connexion of Canada, as consisting in the cost of defending her. She would be just as likely to separate from us, if she thought herself unjustly involved in a British war, whether we undertook her defence or not. * * I should like to see the state of feeling restored to the Colonies which induced the first American colonists to make it one of their grievances that British troops were kept in their borders without their consent. The colonists of former times were not allowed an independent existence as regards the full exercise of their own industry, but we now grant absolute commercial freedom, and that, of course, is a consideration which greatly increases the strength of the