

a discovery some morning that through sheer mismanagement or inadvertence a colony had been allowed to drift into rebellion, or into a passionate declaration of utter distrust in British statesmen. Consideration of economy or convenience, the prejudices of one Minister, the temper of another, all would be lost to sight in a sentiment of indignation that the empire had been severed without affording the people of that empire any opportunity of determining whether they would desire that issue or proffer another alternative. Now the one mode of effectually guarding against either careless slips or well-intentioned blunders is to ascertain in an authentic form what the wishes of the home public and the colonists really are. In our day extreme cases like that of New Zealand or Nova Scotia ought never to arise, for the question in dispute should be debated at a far earlier stage before the public opinion both of the colony and the mother country. Some progress towards the formation of such an opinion may be made within the next few months, and Parliament will be the fitting arena for the inevitable discussion; the real opinion of the colonists will probably pronounce a verdict at a period not much later. Should there be any doubts as to important facts in any particular question or as to the true wishes of the settlers, means might be taken by specially sending out commissioners from this country, or by inviting the co-operation of colonial statesmen, to lay the case before the English Parliament and people in order to elucidate the real bent of sentiment in an authentic shape.

The following extract from a letter written by one of the oldest colonists in New Zealand, a shrewd, canny Scot, presents a view of Lord Granville's policy which should at least suggest inquiry. The writer says:

We shall never see the end of the present disturbance as long as a single regiment of imperial troops is to be had. There is a certain set of men here who have hitherto lived and made fortunes out of the supplies required for the headquarters and out stations; and these are the men who are loudest in their cries about the abandonment of the colony by the mother country. Rest assured that the cause of the present risings of the natives is to be found in the underhand policy of certain speculators at Auckland and Wellington, and not in any inherent hatred of the natives to the settlers. A strict investigation into the ultimate destination of the arms and ammunition which have arrived here during the last three years would throw a curious light upon the present state of affairs. I am convinced, and many of the oldest settlers agree with me, that Lord Granville's "Self-Reliance Despatch," as it is called, has done more towards putting down the outbreak than twelve regiments.

The Dominion Cabinet's proposals to the Prince Edward Island Government, with a view to its Confederation, have been made public by the St. John (N. B.) *Telegraph*, which truly describes them as liberal. Canada undertakes to meet the various expenses of the Government and judiciary, the departmental, fisheries protection, militia, light houses, quarantine and marine hospitals and the penitentiary.

Efficient Steam Service for the conveyance of Mails and Passengers to be established and maintained between the Island and the Dominion, winter and summer, thus placing

the Island in continuous communication with the Inter Colonial Railway and the railway system of the Dominion.

Canada to be charged with the Debts and Liabilities of the Island existing at the time of the Union.

That the Island shall receive in advance from the General Government five per cent. per annum on the difference between the actual amount of its indebtedness and the indebtedness per head of the population at which Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are now allowed in the Union, or the payment of such difference in five per cent. Government Bonds.

The Dominion Government to pay \$25,000 per annum to the Island to meet the expenses of the Local Government and Legislature.

An annual payment to be made to the Island Government equal to eighty cents per head of the population, to be augmented in proportion to the increase of the population as may be shown by each decennial census, until the population amounts to 400,000, at which rate such grant shall thereafter remain, it being understood that the first census shall be taken in the year 1871.

The grievances of the Island in consequence of the bestowal of its lands to absentee proprietors, who yet hold a third of the whole domain are noticed, and the Dominion undertakes to endeavour to obtain compensation for the loss thus occasioned to the Island Government.

In the case of failure Canada will undertake to raise by loan, guaranteed by the Imperial Government, or upon their own securities, should such guarantee be refused, Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars, and pay the same to the Island Government as a compensation for the loss of such Crown Lands; this sum to be in addition to the other sums mentioned in the preceding proposals.

That the Dominion Government will also use their influence to secure such legislation as will enable the Government of the island to purchase the land now held in large blocks upon terms just and equitable to all parties concerned.

"The Committee concur in the said memorandum and submit the same for your Excellency's sanction."

We suppose those terms are generous enough to elicit the approval of the Islanders.

BIOGRAPHY OF PIERRE BONAPARTE.

The New York *Sun* says:—Prince Pierre Bonaparte was born at Rome, Sept. 12, 1815. He is a cousin of the present Emperor, a son of Lucien Bonaparte, and a grandson of Joseph, the brother of the Great Napoleon, who was at one time seated on the throne of Spain. In 1831 Pierre started on a visit to his uncle Joseph, who was then living here in the United States. He next visited Columbia, and received an appointment as Major of Cavalry under the Republican General Santander. Shortly after he returned to Italy, where he got into a difficulty with the Papal authorities, and in 1836 received notice to leave the country. Failing to obey, he was one day surrounded by a troop of Romish constables against whom he defended himself so desperately that he wounded two of his assailants and killed their leader. He was himself wounded, however, in two places, and was finally compelled to surrender himself. He was imprisoned for a long time in Fort Saint Angelo, and on his release started again for this country. He once more returned to Europe

crossing from England to the Island of Corfu. In an excursion from that place into Albania he managed to fall into a fierce dispute with the natives, which ended in another bloody struggle. At the intercession of the English Government he again escaped, but was compelled to leave Italy and Greece entirely. He now offered his services to the French powers, and to Moustafet Ali, Viceroy of Egypt, and on their being rejected by both, took a trip to London.

On the outburst of the revolution of 1848, he hastened to Paris, and received command of a squadron of the Foreign Legion. He was sent to the Assembly by the electors of Corsica, and was placed on the War Committee. He usually voted on the extreme Left. In 1849 he went to Algeria, and assisted at the siege of Zatchas, but just before the assault on the town, returned to Paris without permission. M. D'Hautpoul, the Minister of War, dismissed him on this breach of duty, and his action received the express approbation of the Assembly. It involved Prince Pierre in a duel with a member of the Right.

The *Coup d'Etat* of Dec. 2, placed the Prince in a delicate position, inasmuch as he had promised so earnestly to stand by the constitution. He now retired to private life. His life since then has been an uneventful one, passed mostly at his country house. His impetuous character has brought him into many difficulties, of which the last is not, perhaps, the least.

College students have a legend of a mechanical and perhaps sleepy parson at morning prayers, who prayed that "the inefficient may be made efficient, the intemperate, temperate, and the industrious, dextrous."

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM BROCKVILLE.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Since the inspection of the two Grand Trunk Rifle Companies by their Brigade Major, Lt. Col. Gallway, there has been very little doing here in the military way, until last Tuesday evening, when the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Battery were inspected by Lt. Col. Jackson, Brigade Major. There were present, Lt. Lowe in command, Lieut. Hume, and 46 non-commissioned officers and men. This battery has always been noted for its cleanliness and creditable appearance on parade, and, as usual, made a very fine appearance on this occasion, and were justly complimented by the Inspecting officer, who took that opportunity of urging the importance of acquiring not only a knowledge of the two big guns in their possession, but also of the Snider rifles with which the battery is armed, a practical knowledge of which can only be learned by practice at the target.

I understand that the Rifle Club are making an effort to have a strong team ready for next summer's shooting. The want of more targets is seriously felt in and about this neighbourhood.

The Band of the 56th Battalion, Prescott, discoursed the music at the opening of the Skating Rink here, to the entire satisfaction of those present.