

THE MIRROR.

Correspondence.

For the Mirror.

pected to hand over the key to the Local Government.

Suppose that the Committee on Public Accounts had met, they would have to await the action of the Agent of the Dominion and myself before they could advance a single step.

There is another reason why the Committee have not met. We have come to this deliberate conclusion that until this question is settled, whether the appeal to the British Government is to be successful or not, we will do no business until we get our answer.

Suppose we did legislate, we would then acknowledge the situation. Suppose we were to bring down an Estimate. What would be the first asset? \$224,000, and by inserting it in the Estimate we would acknowledge the 80 cents a head and the subsidy.—we would be acknowledging the situation. It may be said, why have you not done this?

The statement of the hon. gentleman (Hon. Dr. Parker) as to the clerks in the Public Departments is not quite accurate. The principal clerk was removed from the Provincial Secretary's office before we took office. The books in consequence were largely in arrears.

I have briefly stated, then, the reasons why we are not in a position to do any business. The Government will take a vote of credit to enable them to meet current expenses. All the ordinary services of the country will be provided for, and when we meet again we will ask the Legislature for a bill of Indemnity.

The only service that will suffer is the Road and Bridge service. We propose to grant a sum that we can stand or that we can borrow. When we reassemble after the adjournment I hope to be in a position to state what is the actual amount of the indebtedness of the Province, and the actual state of the finances.

Hon Mr Creelman—I am glad to hear the remarks which have just been made by the Treasurer, as from them I think we may conclude that the finances of the country are not in so deplorable a condition as we might have supposed. We have just been told that the financial condition of the Province cannot be stated within \$300,000. The statement, therefore, made in His Excellency's speech of the unsatisfactory state of the finances may not be simply correct.

The Committee on Public Accounts could not have gone and examined the Public Accounts up to the 30th June last. The Confederation Act did not in any way interfere with the expenditure or revenue of the Province up to that date. It is one part of the business of the Commission, it appears, to report on the state of the indebtedness of the Province on the 30th June last. I repeat I do not see anything that need have prevented the Committee on Public Accounts up to that period.

I think it would have been satisfactory to the country if that Committee had done so. I think it would have been sufficient for it, ever since the printed returns of the revenue and expenditure of the Province up to 30th June last have been laid on the table.

I do not wish to say that anything has been done by the Government with the intention of keeping the country in the dark with regard to its financial affairs, but I must say, that if it were their design to do so, they could not have taken a better plan to keep information from the country than they have taken. Their first step was to appoint a Commission to examine into and report on the financial state of the Province. Then came His Excellency's speech, containing a statement of the report of that Commission would be furnished us. They were to adjourn, it seems, in two or three days—when to meet again we do not know—without having had the report submitted to us.

We have no right to dictate to the Government what course they should pursue. They seem determined to take no course that might compromise them. Though we have some reason to hope from the remarks of the Treasurer that the finances of the country are not in as bad a condition as has been represented, yet we are not in possession of the information which I think the House and the country have a right to complain of having been withheld.

Hon Treasurer—The accounts having been made up to the 30th June last, all that the Committee of Public Accounts could have done would be to examine the vouchers and certify that they are correct. I do not see how any advantage could arise from that. If the Committee of Public Accounts had met, it would be wiser to deal with the present than with the past.

Hon Mr Creelman—I do not see why it was made part of the duty of the Commission to report on the indebtedness of the Province on the 30th June last. That is an advance by the Commission to be part of their duty.

House adjourned, on motion of Hon. Mr. Brown, until 2 1/2 p. m., on Monday.

AN ANECDOTE OF LOUIS BLANC.—The following story was lately told in a London newspaper: A touching anecdote was related to me of Louis Blanc the other day, which proves him not only to be endowed with genius, but with a good heart. One day—this was a few days after the revolution of 48—he met the celebrated Choudessignes sitting vacantly at some carvatures in a shop window.

"What are you about?" inquired of him the author of the "Histoire de dix ans," striking him familiarly on the shoulder. Choudessignes turned round and looked at him. His features were emaciated, his eyes sunk with suffering and sickness. "I am learning how to die of hunger," replied Choudessignes. Louis Blanc, deeply moved, took him home, opened his secretary, which contained a sum of three hundred francs and putting two hundred francs into the hand of his unfortunate friend in advance on the money. "I shall owe you for work I am anxious you should undertake for me." Another anecdote worth relating: Having heard that the son of General was ill and unable to leave his bed, and without any one to take care of him, M. Louis Blanc instantly went to his lodgings, and acted as his nurse. He spent the night with him, and the next morning had scarcely dawned when a ring of the bell was heard. Louis Blanc went to open the door. A man rushed in frantically with a bill, demanding the most violent language for instant payment. Louis Blanc, returning to his friend's bedside, told him that he (Louis Blanc) was obliged to quit him for a few hours, as he had been sent for. He then left the house with the creditor, took him home, and paid the bill, which amounted to 4000. The young invalid only knew two years later that Louis Blanc had thus saved him from being arrested for debt.

A most melancholy accident occurred at the Six Mile Brook in this County, on Wednesday last, which resulted in the instantaneous death of a young man named John Boss. He was pursuing some dogs which had been killing sheep, and leaving his gun loaded, standing among some bushes, went into a neighbor's house where he partook of breakfast and then left. Shortly afterwards he was discovered by some scholars going to school. He was then quite dead. It is supposed that while drawing the gun out of the bushes a twig raised the hammer and discharged the gun. The ball went into the left breast, passed through the chest to the right side, causing instant death. An inquest was held on the body before W. H. Harris, Esq., and a verdict returned in accordance with the above. The deceased, who was recently married, was a young man much esteemed, and his untimely death is deeply deplored in the community.—Standard.

From the Scottish American Journal.

THE AMERICAN PRESS ON THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

The controversy in progress in Great Britain in regard to the Alabama claims has given birth to very sensible comments on the part of the leading journal of the United States. A certain class of demagogues have exerted themselves to make this question a ground of quarrel with the British Government. They have appealed to the ancient jealousy which lurked in the American mind, and to the prejudices which the calamitous struggle were well calculated to excite.

With these causes of irritation to work upon, they have fostered a cry for an immediate settlement of claims arising out of the war, and have urged the adoption of a policy by the Washington authorities which would most surely lead to alienation and unfriendliness, if not to positive hostilities.

For the same purpose the subject of citizenship has been converted into a mere party football. Fanaticism has made itself heard in the Capitol, and has assumed a right to dictate the policy of the United States Government. The same influences have been employed to use the Alabama claims as a pretext for demands of an offensive character; and efforts have been made to commit President Johnson to a course pregnant with mischief to both countries.

Now the relations of Britain and the United States are sufficiently delicate to render moderation on both sides extremely desirable. There may be no actual danger of difficulty, but there are sufficient occasions of misunderstanding to prove the necessity of mutual forbearance. The Alabama claims alone would be enough to excite uneasiness if the two Governments were actuated by any other desire than the desire for peace.

So much is distinctly confessed by the London Press, and the importance it attaches to the discussion in progress in its column indicates the gravity of the points at issue. The calm, dignified Lord Hobart and Mr. Vernon Harcourt attend the hold which the question has taken of the public mind; while they demonstrate the possibility of discussing the nicest points of international law and polity with an excellence of temper which on this side of the Atlantic is cultivated much too rarely.

In these circumstances it is satisfactory to observe that the principal journals of this city, and of Cincinnati and other places in the West, are exerting themselves in the interest of peace. The Times and Tribune of New York, and the Cincinnati Commercial, are among the most conspicuous examples of good sense and good feeling in relation to a question which, in some quarters is used to the detriment of both. This friendly feeling, however, does not imply any abatement of claim or any surrender of principle on the part of the American journalists.

They are firm in maintenance of the opinion that the liability of Britain for damages inflicted by privateers built and sheltered in her ports is complete. They contend unflinchingly for the settlement of claims arising out of this cause, and they insist that the duty of the United States Government is to press for a settlement. But they declare that this pressure does not imply bullying or quarrelling. While dwelling upon the errors and the short-sighted course of Earl Russell, they make no attempt to conceal the blunders and weaknesses of Mr. Seward. They show that in recognizing the South as a belligerent Britain did neither more nor less than Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet had already done. Above all, they point out the folly of allowing an unsettled account to degenerate into a petulant difference, and they earnestly urge the reopening of negotiations with a view to an early and amicable adjustment of the difficulty. And they emphasize the wickedness and danger of whatever tends to impede a settlement, or to familiarize the public mind with the idea of war as a consequence of non-compliance with the American interpretation of right.

A spirit at once so conciliatory and just commends itself to the respect and judgment of all who would preserve the friendly relations of the two countries. It stands out in bold relief from the demagogism which seeks to create trouble on this side of the Atlantic, and from the not more creditable obstinacy which obtains encouragement beyond the sea. For it is due to truth to confess that Earl Russell's petulance quite equals Mr. Seward's presumption, and that Lord Stanley's want of statesmanship is as bad as both.

There has been, and there still is, blundering in high places on both sides. The United States Government errs when it refuses to enter into arbitration unless the moral culpability of Britain be considered in aggravation of pecuniary damages; and the British Government errs by withholding from reference a phase of the question which will be revived some day to the prejudice of British interests.

While, then, we cannot trace in the comments of the friendly journals to which we have referred the exhaustive argument which characterizes the letters of "Historicus" and Lord Hobart, we must do them the justice to say that in genuine liberality and shrewdness they far excel the average utterances of the British Press on this most important subject. By curbing the demagogues and inculcating the propriety not less than the profitableness of resuming negotiations and disposing of the question by arbitration they set an example which we would gladly see imitated. This is not a time when any sensible man, British or American, would willingly leave open any serious difference. The interests at stake immeasurably exceed the amount involved in the Alabama claims; and only an ignorant and pitiful pride would mistake timely and reasonable concessions for cowardice or dishonor.

We are informed that Mr. John Cummings, Carriage Maker of this place was grossly assaulted and very severely injured by two or three ruffians on Tuesday night last. We hope the parties may be traced out and brought to justice.—Standard.

Mr. Cummings, was formerly a resident of Truro.

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The Mirror
 AND
Colchester County Advertiser.
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1868.

There are five Saturdays in this month. The like will not occur again for 28 years—in 1896.

The Annual Session of the Orange Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia and its Dependencies met in Pieton last week. The attendance was very large.

Subscribers who do not receive the "Mirror" regularly will please let us know at their earliest convenience, so that we may be enabled to ferret out the cause.

We regret to learn that Mr. Sandy Macey, of River Philip, who met with the accident in the woods a short time ago, has since died from the effects of the injuries received.

In a few weeks we intend publishing a series of historical articles, entitled "Nova Scotia connected with America."

The Legislature of this Province adjourned on Tuesday last to meet again on Thursday, the 6th day of August, at 12 o'clock, noon.

A party of young men started off a few days ago on a Moose Hunting Expedition, but returned without capturing any. It was reported that two moose were seen on Monday a few miles from Truro, near the Railroad track.

The coldest weather we experienced this season was between Saturday night and Monday. The weather has been fine since, though rather frosty.

Mr. Rand's lecture before the Young Men's Christian Association on Friday evening last, was not very well attended. The lecture should have taken place on Thursday evening, but owing to the non-arrival of Mr. Rand was postponed until Friday evening. The next lecture will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Cramp.

FRISH OYSTERS.—Fresh Oysters can be had at Mrs. Moore's.

We have been requested to state that the ladies and gentlemen in connection with the Wesleyan congregation of this place intend giving an entertainment, in the course of a few days, at Coburg Hall, for the purpose of raising funds to assist in paying off the debt on the Organ of their church. Due notice will be given.

Our travelling agent, F. D. Simpson, informs us that a serious accident occurred at North Mountain, Onslow, on the 14th inst., whereby a young man in the employ of Mr. James Stephens, merchant, nearly lost his life. The young man was driving a loaded team from Truro, and coming over an icy piece of road the sled capsized, throwing him violently to the ground, a hoghead of molasses rolling over him and crushing him severely. Medical aid was instantly procured and the poor fellow, though suffering very much, is in a fair way of recovery.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"Fenian Raid." We decline publishing your communication at present. You should bring your case before the proper authorities, and let them deal with the matter. If you have received the treatment you speak of, no means should be spared to bring the parties to justice. "Quiz." Your "parody on penny readings" is disgusting, to say the least of it. "Sharper." Your observations may be interesting to yourself, but we decline publishing them. You may be a very nice young man for all we know, and may have your own ideas of propriety, &c., but never attempt to find fault with what you know nothing about. "Colchester" crowded out this week—will appear next.

The mariner's compass has done some of the most important needle work in the world. Heaven's Journal is the name of a new partisan paper.

Said Stephen Girard, "I never cease to advertise. It is an investment that pays at all seasons."

The Boston Post says now that horseflesh is an article of diet we may expect to see sweep-stakes on the table.

"The ocean speaks eloquently and forever," says Beecher. "Yes," retorts Prentice, "and there is no use in telling it to dry up."

Singing odes the wheels of care and supplies the place of sunshine. A man who sings has a good heart under his shirt front. Such a man not only works more willingly, but he works more constantly. A singing collier who gives way to low spirits and indigestion. Avaricious men never sing. The man who attacks singing throws a stone at the head of his enemy, and would, if he could, rob June of its roses or August of its meadow larks.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We must know the names and addresses of our correspondents as a guaranty of their good faith. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

For the Mirror.
BE TRUE.

If there is in the human character one element more than another that redeems it from the charge of baseness, it is the element of truth. It is this which illumines the whole region of the inner man, and renders every other virtue visible. It lies at the foundation of all moral culture, and tops the summit of all moral perfection. It raises man to his true level, and gives the meanest nature and the homeliest life a claim to admiration.

God's best gifts to man are always the most impartially distributed, and this principle of truth is not an endowment of nature bestowed only upon a favored few. There is in every human mind a strong disposition to tell the truth, to act the feelings, to reveal the thoughts, as well as to accept what is told us as true, unless some motive to the contrary exists. Thus the honest man only falls in with the order of nature, and fulfills a design of his creator. The liar, the hypocrite, the deceiver—these are self-willed and abortions in God's perfect world, having no lawful position among the veritable and authentic works of a Divine hand.

It is a bad principle that teaches men to "do evil that good may come," telling them that "the end sanctifies the means." It is only when a noble result can be obtained by the use of noble means that the truth is made fully manifest. It is better to lose a great gain, than gain it at the least sacrifice of this principle within. For we must "buy the truth and sell it not," pay for it whatever price is demanded, sacrifice our dearest interests, even to the plucking out of an eye, or the casting off of a hand.

It is wisdom in the prudent sage that prompts him to consider well the end before he has made the beginning, but when we can find a man who, in the enthusiasm for the cause of truth and right, can do the deed and scorn the consequence,—this awakens all the hero-worship in our nature. For there is not a grander ambition to which the human mind can aspire, than that expressed in the words of our poet Laureate,

"to live by law,
 Acting the law we live by without fear;
 And because right is right, to follow right
 Were wisdom, in the scorn of consequence."

One who, in whatever position he may be placed, can with firmness and integrity act his proper part, neither afraid nor ashamed to open his bosom to the world's inspection, a stranger to all the mean petty sordid considerations of self, who would repel with scorn the offer of unjust advantage, whose countenance does not deceive us, and in whose mouth there is no guile, who would swear to his own hurt and never change—there is something in such a one, of what God himself would express as "the real meaning of a man." Such a one is evidently a happy man, for he possesses within himself the very means of happiness. He has nothing to fear from the world, and is sure of the approbation of heaven. Calumny may fasten her fangs upon him, however venomous they cannot poison truth. Hatred, envy and persecution may do their worst against him, but to that death these things shall never be moved. The God of truth declares it.

Then let us be true, and lie not, neither in thought, in word, or in deed. Let us be true in all our relations, the earthward and the heavenward alike, true to the God whom we worship, true to the law by which we profess to live, true to those with whom our lot is cast, both friend and foe, and let us

"to our own selves be true,
 And it must follow as the night the day;
 We cannot then be false to any one."

MARIE.

For the Mirror.

MR. EDITOR,—In looking over a late number of your paper I observed an address to the ladies on the privileges of leap year. I do not think you are a true *Mirror* if you consider that piece a reflection of the minds or feelings of the Colchester ladies. Every true woman loves to receive politeness and attention from gentlemen; but for the object of her affections she must have one that she at least thinks worthy of her regard, not a soft dawdling fellow that she is obliged to cajole, flatter, or make presents to, in order to secure their attention. What young lady in this country would think for one moment of accepting a fellow that had so little pluck or manliness in his composition as to allow her to do the courting for him the question herself. True there may be some mischievous fun-loving girl that would venture to remind some gentleman of her acquaintance that this is leap-year, and it is her privilege to make advances; but let him profess to be pleased, and threaten to accept her proposals, and see if she don't recant. Womanly modesty will immediately resume its sway, and she will blushingly confess that she was only in jest.

As to presents, I do not approve of young ladies either giving to or receiving presents from gentlemen, except they are engaged and expect to be married soon. Then I consider there is nothing improper in a young lady receiving presents from her affianced husband.

Hoping you will excuse me for criticizing your editorial, and wishing all success to your paper, I remain yours,
 MAUDE PERCY.

Onslow, January 29th, 1868.

We see it stated that the Fenians have offered the President of the United States 100,000 men if he will prosecute a war against England.

MR. EDITOR.—We think that we would be doing injustice to some of the citizens of Truro did we not signify through your excellent columns the pleasure which was imparted to all present at the Penny Readings on Tuesday evening, certainly, in array of talent and in point of execution, has not been surpassed by any previous entertainment of the kind. The audience were kept waiting a short time, owing to one of the performers in the first piece being detained. We did not hear of the cause; but nowadays, since paper has superseded linen for gentlemen's collars, it is not at all unusual for them to have to have the old adage exemplified: "The more hurry the less speed;" but the beaming countenance of the performer shortly making its appearance tended to allay the irritation very much, and by the time it was concluded they were all ready to applaud and demand its being sung over again; but owing to one of the principal characters having a cold they felt unequal to the task, much to the disappointment of the spectators. We think that the readings of Mrs. Andrews would do justice to any professional, so very clearly were the words pronounced and the punctuation so distinctly observed, emphasis also being placed where necessary, which we think is one of the most important means to use in order to be a successful reader. Next in order came Mrs. Williams (solo), and to render justice to which is impossible, and in itself was a treat worth coming under any difficulties to hear. At the conclusion she was loudly encored, but owing to the prevailing epidemic (a cold) felt unequal to the task. Among the other treats of the evening we notice the duets of the Misses Blanchard, that of the Misses Reading, and the readings of Mr. Williams and Miss Killar, all of which were superior, and would do credit to any amateurs. The dialogue of Messrs. Blanchard and McCully was excellent, and elicited loud applause from the audience. Mr. Archibald's rendering of "Bonnie Dundee" was excellent, and would fill with martial ardor the breast of the most unwarlike person present, carrying the mind of the hearer back to days of yore, when we were wont with loving eye to behold the stalwart form of the Colonel of the 3rd Colchester exercising the raw material on our Common. At the conclusion he was loudly applauded, and much to the satisfaction of the audience again made his appearance on the platform, when another, in point of excellence equalling if not surpassing the former, filled the ears of the critical Truroians. Long may Mr. Archibald be with us, for his gentlemanly and prepossessing appearance and natural urbanity have made him beloved by both old and young. Miss Hayes (solo) our unspeakable admiration again makes her appearance, and is received with loud applause, to which, as a matter of pleasure not gratitude, she responds in the well known strains which have so often delighted our never adapted senses. Some of our readers will remember that Orpheus in heathen mythology is mentioned as having made the savage animals dance to the sweet strains which he drew forth from his lyre: we feel quite positive that some more astounding fact than the above would have taken place to be chronicled to posterity if Miss Hayes had lived at that eventful period. But that there appears to be no pleasure without an ending, and much to the dissatisfaction of all present such is announced to be the case by Mr. Williams again making his appearance, and in his usual kindly manner thanking the audience for their attendance, and much to their pleasure mentioning that it will be continued after the lapse of a few weeks, which no doubt will be earnestly looked forward to by all who have had the pleasure of attending. And, in conclusion, my dear sir, hoping that none of your readers will think any of my ideas at all high-toned,
 I am yours, &c.,
 HALIFAX, Wednesday, Feb. 26.

DEAR MIRROR:—The time has again come round when I must open my weekly budget for the inspection of your readers.

And first as to the races which took place as announced on Thursday last at Bedford Basin, opposite the four mile house. Being the first of the kind that has taken place in Halifax for some years, of course they created a good deal of interest. Long before the hour appointed for the first race, sleigh after sleigh left the city, conveying its load of passengers to the race ground.

The fare being very cheap, of course many availed themselves of the opportunity of having a drive, added to this the day was excellently fine and admirably adapted for the purpose. Those who were unable to go in the morning went up in the afternoon, adding by their presence to the large number already assembled. The number being estimated by some as high as four thousand people of all sexes, ages and sizes. The scene of the races was picturesque and exciting in the extreme. I do not think I have seen before such a collection of teams of all kind, from the dashing four-in-hands and tandems, with sleighs muffled in furs, down to the truckman one horse sled, the whole forming a scene as enlivening as it was novel. The winning post, which was immediately opposite Davey's four mile house, formed the chief center of interest. It was here that the betting ran highest, and men staked hundreds of dollars on the issue of the different races; as a matter of course a great deal of money changed hands. The first race was won by a Wind-sor horse, driven by Kilkup. In this race there was a dispute whether Kilkup's horse or the one owned by Thomas J. Wallace, Esq., was entitled to the race. The stewards, however, gave in favor of Kilkup.