

"leading delegates at Quebec were (if their public speeches afford any criterion) of one mind upon this essential point." The *Saturday Review* cannot be expected to know that the "leading delegates" from Nova Scotia went to Quebec at the public expense without asking the people of this Province whether they wished for Union or preferred remaining as they are at present. We question whether the *Saturday Review* would applaud the morality of our delegates, if conscious of the fact that their bargain with the statesmen of Canada was altogether repugnant to at least one half of our population, as fraught with evil to our mercantile and political interests.

#### AMERICANISATION.

It is, we think, undeniable that the majority of Nova Scotians bask in the sunshine of many popular fallacies. First and foremost amongst these, is the idea that we are thoroughly English, and unlike the citizens of the United States in our manners, customs, and modes of thought. Like King George III, of pious and somewhat stupid memory, we each and all "glory in the name of Briton." We pride ourselves upon the fact that the sun never sets on the Empire of which we form a part. Our harbour is beautiful during the summer months by the presence of those walls either of wood or of iron which are the protection both at home and abroad of every loyal subject of our Queen. Our Sixteenth and Seventeenth regiments of the line, accompanied by our Artillery and our Engineers parade our streets and we are proud of their "fine appearance." We rest our pride in these things, and the like, because they in a certain measure belong to Nova Scotia, as a component member of the British Empire. And have we no right so to consider them? Are they not in part our property, belonging as they do, to that Crown which we profess ourselves ready at any moment to serve? Do we not live under the same form of government as that which first drew breath on Runnymede? Nay, more: has not the Under Secretary for the Colonies, lately declared that it is essential for the welfare of mankind, that a great nation should be established in British North America, which, living under forms of constitutional government similar to those of the parent state, should balance the dangerous growth of a nation so strong, so rash, and so hot blooded that great dangers to the world in general, might be incurred should the dominions of this continent fall into its grasp? All this we must regard as undeniable, but after all it only amounts to this: that we are under a form of government similar to that of Great Britain. We fancy that we are perpetuating her manners, customs and laws in America, and we agree with the Under Secretary for the Colonies, that it is wise that we should do so. On a closer examination, however, it may appear that it leads us somewhat astray, and that though we live under the letter of a Constitution in all respects similar to that of England, the practical working of the same is somewhat different. No sane man could suppose that the introduction of English laws into Timbuctoo, would materially improve the condition of its inhabitants. There must, in all cases, be a substratum of popular feeling—a general feeling of honour in public men as in England—or a general feeling of dishonour in becoming a public man—as in the United States. Constitutions are not to be transplanted like young oak trees—especially such a constitution as that of Great Britain, sealed as it has been, during many centuries, in the blood of the greatest, wisest, and best of the Anglo Saxon race.

Since however it has been transplanted to Nova Scotia, the least we can do for our welfare is to give it a proper soil to grow on. The British Constitution suits England, but it most assuredly cannot be successful in a country where the American element rules supreme—where public men succeed rather by cunning than by honesty, and where the foremost men of the day avoid meddling with politics altogether. It could be no more successfully worked in such a country than it could be in Timbuctoo. Even we Nova Scotians, the most English of all British North American colonists, are getting Americanized to a very serious extent. It is natural that, to a certain degree, this should be the case. Our gold mines, our coal mines, and a great portion of our fisheries are in the hands of American companies, and where the treasure is, there also is the heart. We are within forty-two hours sail from Boston, and at least seven days sail from England. But if we have all these temptations towards Yankeeisation to contend with, it is only the more necessary

that we should strive with all our might to understand not only the written parts of our constitution, but that underlying national feeling, which is absolutely necessary for its successful development. That we do not do this at present, we could adduce numerous instances to prove. We will confine ourselves to one example illustrative of what we mean. It has been stated in many of the leading journals that the Speaker of the lower House canvassed for the Government candidate in the recent electioneering struggle in Annapolis County. This statement remains uncontradicted. Now there is no statute, either in Nova Scotia or in England, which forbids the Speaker of the lower House to take any active part in politics, but should a first Commoner of England thus commit himself—thus declare himself in favor of one party, all who know anything about English custom, must be aware that he would not remain many days in the Speaker's chair. There is no statute against a Prince of the Blood Royal receiving bribes. There is no law which can bind a Judge to impartiality. There is no act forbidding a Foreign Secretary to receive bribes from foreign Governments—yet it is not the less true, that did any of these high personages so abuse their place as to receive bribes, or act partially in the administration of justice, eternal infamy would be their lot. This is the unwritten portion of the British Constitution, which we fear is not understood as it should be, on this side of the Atlantic. The traditions handed down from century to century, of the unexpressed duties of its great functionaries, play no mean part in its successful existence. If these be ignored, the whole machinery must of necessity become deranged. It has been well observed by Mr. TROLLOPE that "our constitution is most difficult of comprehension. How many Englishmen have failed to understand accurately their own constitution? But when this knowledge has been attained, it has generally been filtered into the mind slowly, and has come from the unconscious study of many years. An Englishman handles a newspaper for a quarter of an hour daily, and daily exchanges some few words in politics with those around him, till drop by drop the pleasant springs of his liberty creep into his mind and water his heart; and thus earlier or later in life, according to the nature of his intelligence, he understands why it is that he is at all points a free man." Now whether Nova Scotians are afforded any opportunities of information on the working of the British Constitution "pur et simple" we must leave it for our readers to decide. To us it appears, that overdone with United States politics, and engaged during any spare time they may possess in the discussion, (until Federation came upon the tapis), of Lilliputian local squabbles, small space has been left them for the consideration of English matters, and English policy, except when the latter was connected with the lower Provinces. To one column of English news in our papers, (and that not unfrequently devoted to Court slip slop,) we have at least a dozen bearing upon the politics (not the war) of the United States. This may be but natural; in our opinion, however, so long as we profess to be English in sentiment, it is desirable that we should know something about England, and that our Journalists, who know all about such men as the late Mr. EVERETT, should also have some information, however small about Political life in England. We were somewhat amused at a statement made the other day, by a leading journal, to the effect that a certain gentleman had been appointed to the Chief Clerkship of the House of Commons, a position, perhaps almost more important than that of the Speaker himself." If Nova Scotians only receive a column or two per week on English matters, and are then misinformed about such matters, our tendency towards Americanisation must naturally increase daily. It appears to us most essential that when we talk about joining our fortunes with a nation, accurately described before the outburst of the American war as "half Yankee and half French," we at least should be "English in sentiment;" a consummation devoutly to be wished, but not easily to be obtained, unless we understand fully what the phrase itself means.

#### POLITICS IN PRAYER.

Since the days of Dr. SACHEVEREL and Bishop ATTERBURY political sermons have gradually lost popularity in England and throughout Protestant Europe. The cause for such effusions having died out—freedom of religious opinion being sanctioned by all Protestant Governments and religious opinions being no longer barriers against Political power—it is

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