POOR COPY

country from Eric or his bard has pictured it. Eric and his family have been connected with two puzzling problems, for it was his sons or daughters and his sons-in-law and daughters-in-law that found or visited Vinland. When we can discover Greenland's verdant mountains we can also hope to find the vineclad hills of Vinland the Good. The paper then drew attention to a remarkable fact which is new to historians, that the eastern part of British North America once formed part of the earliest European Colony in the new world. Documents were quoted that have been within the past year published by the Portugess, which show that from A. D. 1500 to 1579 commissions were regularly issued to the Corte Reals and their successors. In 1580 Spain annexed Portugal. Last winter was spent by the writer in the Azores from whence two expeditions sailed to colonize Cape Breton; A. D. 1521 to 1567. When Spain escaped the owner of Terra Nova she sent a colony which the writer traced to Spanish Harbor (Sidney) C. B. He also showed that a commission issued in 1521 to Fagundes governor of all the country between the Spanish territories and the land of the Corte Reals. The latter colony was thirteen years earlier than any other in the new world, and the settlement in 1521 was the earliest in North America. It was nearly a century before the French colonized Cape Race (Cape Raso), 'bare cape') the Bay of Fundy (Funda, 'deep') and many other names are memorials of a lost colony which existed for almost a century and concerning which history has hitherto been silent.


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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1884.


## WEST INDIAN ANNEXATION.

THE GLEANER's views on the annexation of the West Indies to Canada have attracted much attention, and have been commended by papers upon both sides of politics. Among those who have alluded to them is the Moncton *Transcript* which after quoting from our first article upon the subject says:—

We think it is probable that commercially the Maritime Provinces would gain more from such a union than the Western Provinces; and if the whole of the islands were included in the union they might possibly act as a counterpoise to the influence of the West; nevertheless, looking at the present unwieldy character of the Dominion territorially, the conflicting interests that are continually cropping up and clashing with each other, the distance of those islands from the seat of central authority and the heterogeneous character of their population, we are of opinion that the expense, responsibility and difficulty which such a union would entail upon the Dominion, will far outweigh any commercial or political advantages to be gained thereby. The establishment of common-sense trade relations between the British West Indies and Canada will give the Maritime Provinces all the commercial advantages to be gained, and avoid all the political and financial responsibilities and entanglements that would be entailed upon us, by such a union.

The objections made by our contemporary are worthy of consideration, as they are representative, although they do not appear to us to be of a very substantial nature. In the first place we are not in accord with that political disposition which would shirk the responsibilities attaching to measures, calculated to promote the material advantage of country. The unmistakeable trend of Canadian thought is towards an assumption by the Dominion of the dignity of nationality; and in the light which the recent utterances of English statesmen casts upon our probable future it is impossible to regard the tacit assent given by the Imperial authorities to West Indian Annexation as anything else than a determination to present us on our coming of age with provinces, the possession of which has been in times past the ambition of the great nations of Europe. If Great Britain were to offer her West Indian possessions as a free gift to France, Germany, or the United States, how long do our contemporaries think the offer would remain unaccepted? Would questions as to patronage, as to race antipathies, as to remoteness or the like, be raised? Scarcely, we think, But the gift is offered to Canada, and if we accept it, we shall have the moral and physical support of the Mother Country in consolidating our Dominion.

Our contemporary's objections only need to be examined to make their insubstantial character apparent.

1st "The present unwieldy character of the Dominion territorially." If the unwieldiness is meant in a commercial sense the proposed addition of the West Indies would serve to obviate it. They would be the commercial complement of the confederation. If the unwieldiness is meant in an administrative sense, we have only to say that we do not believe it exists, or that any inconvenience is felt in administering affairs because of the extent of our territorial area.

2nd, "The conflicting interests that are continually cropping up and clashing with each other." Our contemporary answers this objection in part when it says that the West Indies might act as a counterpoise.

Conflicting interests do exist and they always will exist; they are inevitable in any country, especially in a country of large area, but they have never been esteemed a good argument against territorial expansion. We do not think that they are any source of danger to the Canadian union. If the Confederation is broken up, it will not be from political causes; for the storms on the political sea do not really affect the great mass of the people. Industrial and commercial prosperity is their great concern, and if the Union goes to peices it will be because it has failed to produce this. We doubt if there has been a political issue since 1867 on which any citizen could be induced to load a rifle; and yet we are told, with much truth, that a profound dissatisfaction exists in the Maritime provinces against the union. The cause of this feeling is in the absence of prosperity, and this our contemporary admits union with the West Indies would tend to secure. Moreover it must not be forgotten that many of the "conflicting interests" are inseparable from the early years of the union and time will settle most of them.

3rd, The distance of the islands from the seat of central authority." So far as experience has familiarized us with the working of the union there seems to be really nothing in this objection.

4th. "The heterogeneous character of the population." Is this really an objection to the union? Does it make the slightest difference to a Canadian in New Brunswick whether 9 or 90 per cent. of his fellow Canadians in Jamaica are black? And if so what is the difference? It is for those who make this objection to show that it is well founded, that is to demonstrate that because a large proportion of the inhabitants of the West Indies are black they will therefore not make good Canadian citizens. The educational status of the islands, so far as common schools go, is not much, if any behind what had been reached in this Province twenty years ago, and it is improving; while the social condition of the black population has been gradually advancing ever since the emancipation of the slaves, and we, therefore, do not believe that their future as a law abiding, self-governing people admits of a doubt. Those who believe that it does should give the grounds upon which they base their opinions.

The proposal to establish reciprocal trade relations with the islands would not be approved of in England, at least it is so asserted.

While the views expressed by the *Transcript* are fairly represetative of the opposition to the annexation project, our contemporary seems to be animated by the thought that however good the scheme may seem in a material sense, it may after all be merely an invention of the arch-enemy, Sir John Macdonald. The weight of evidence is against such a supposition; but if the project were one of the Premier's concocting, we do not know that the fact would afford any argument against the discussion of, and a decision upon its merits.

## THE INDIANTOWN BRANCH.

The announcement that the contract for building the Indiantown Branch of the I. C. R. has been awarded to Mr. J. B. Snowball, came like a thunderclap upon the ears of the opponents of the Miramichi Valley Railway. To think that after all their planning and wire-pulling they should have been so easily outwitted by the men they were trying to worry and annoy was about as nauseous a dose as they cared to swallow. Some of them would not believe the report. They said it was "a Grit lie;" but now that it is found out to be true they want to get somewhere into the woods and kick themselves. They vow that the branch shall never be built. Rather than Snowball should build the road, Indiantown and all its belongings may sink into the bottom of the Miramichi. But they are crying out in vain. They are powerless to stop Mr. Snowball and his associates from going on under their contract and making a few thousand dollars to put into the Miramichi Railway. Oh, but Mr. M. Adams and his fellow schemers are clever fellows—clever in threats, clever in plans, only not very clever in execution. There is in Fredericton a gentleman who is very much disgusted over the course things have taken. He did not tender for the work himself; but he knew a man who did, and the man who did and he were not likely to disagree about dividing the profits. It is beginning to dawn upon this worthy gentleman that "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft aglee." We wonder if he won't want to vote next winter to have the building of the branch postponed *sine die*.

## THAT PAPER OF JONES'S

Mr. William A. Jones, the Albert Co. El Mahdi, has published his paper in the *Maple Leaf*. We regret, for the sake of the profession to which he belongs, that he was able to induce any newspaper to give publicity to the document, although there is this to be said in extenuation, that he has never had the advantages of a thorough educational training. Now that it has appeared in print the hope that the Chief Superintendent expressed that it would not be published, is more than justified. As a sample of the sort of stuff which the public is expected to take stock in and is asked to believe is representative of the opinions of the fifteen hundred teachers of this province, we make a few extracts from Mr. Jones' paper. He begins to discuss his subject, which is called "Our Work," in the following words:—

I have no desire that the manner in which I have discussed the subject in this paper shall be considered either thorough or profound.

He might have saved himself the expression of this desire, as no one after reading his production could possibly entertain such an idea. After a sentence or two which mean nothing he says:—

It had long been apparent to me that there was a screw loose somewhere in the professional machinery; that some of the numerous wheels were badly fractured; or, what was more probable, had never been placed in proper position. But after the duty of uniting the paper devolved upon me, I took the trouble to investigate the school machinery more closely. I do not think it would be prudent for me to disclose fully the results of my critical, profound and laborious investigations, but shall content myself by giving my briefest notes.

After this exhibition of tomfoolery, he goes on to talk about the Chief superintendent, whom he calls "the governor," and speaks of him as an "old machine" parts of which "wabbled badly during the past year." How this will delight the *Capital*, the *Farmer* and the *Reporter*, and the other Joneses and Parkins of the Educational service. After some silly remarks about "lubricating oil" he goes on to speak of the Attorney General in the following terms:—

Since that time, a man whose knowledge of machinery—judging from his acts—must have been learned from casually observing the intricate workings of the wheelbarrow and grindstones of York County has been tinkering at the boiler. But the boiler is not safe yet, by any means, my private opinion is, that it is liable to burst again.

He then speaks about "the driving wheel," we suppose he means the teachers, which with a frightful ignorance of machinery he says is what does the work in a steam engine, and which he says needs lubricating. We quote:—

The wonderfully sagacious and economical person, who at present is controlling affairs, has reduced the quantity of oil used. The amount thus saved has been devoted to other purposes, with the insane and foolish idea that in an inexplicable manner it may possibly strengthen the boiler. This is the work of the York tinker. At the present time the axle is so heated that after a few more revolutions it is my opinion that the wheel will be on fire. Smoke has been seen issuing from several parts already. Speed the day, is my earnest cry; for, when it comes, the boiler will burst again.

Really in reading this production of Jones, one is forced to the conclusion that his is a case of too much "lubrication," or in plain words, that the man can scarcely have been in his sober senses, when he penned such rubbish to read before a deliberative body of educated people. But how badly he gives himself away. It is the "bursting of the boiler" he longs for: that is, the defeat of the government. Does he care for his fellow teachers? Not he. It is the government he wishes to strike, and in this matter he is at one with his endorsers and applauders, the *Capital*, the *Farmer* and the *Reporter*.

At this stage in his composition a gleam of reason crossed Mr. Jones' mind and he expressed himself as "truly sorry" if there was no connection between "these rambling observations and the subject chosen." Ah! Jones, your good angel had not quite deserted you; and if you had listened to its promptings and thrown the manuscript into the fire you would not have stamped yourself as a phenominal jackass. But Fate willed it otherwise.

He then proceeded to remark:—

I persume it is beyond the province of this paper to discuss the effects of the late changes in the school law of New Brunswick. But I deem it my duty to say that these changes have not been beneficial to the interests of education, but on the contrary have had an injurious effect. If, then, my view of the matter be correct, the blame of bringing such a state of things about must be upon the shoulders of some one, and the question seems to be: Who shall we blame? The Government? The Superintendent? The Inspector? or the teachers?

The crowning absurdity of the paper is to be found in the answer to these questions, for it is not the Government, for whose defeat he longs, nor the Chief Superintendent, whom he insults, that he lays the blame upon, but the Teachers. Then in all humility, as becomes us in the presence of the successor of Parkin, may we ask what Jones meant by his nonsensical and indecent attack upon the Attorney General and Mr. Crocket? But Jones is not one who is daunted by inconsistencies. He is one who says with What's-his-name, that "inconsistency is the bugbear of small minds," and he goes on to show the teachers why they are to blame. In this connection it becomes necessary to speak of the people who pay him. These he calls "the grumbling taxpayers." Truly when they pay such men as he they have cause to grumble; the parents he calls "grumbling and fault-finding;" the teachers are "worn with toil and irritated;" their work they regard as "drudgery;" their position is little better than "that of a Roman Serf." The pupils are

A crowd of unruly lads—over whom at home is exercised very little or no parental authority, who come to school often unwashed and with hair on end, like quills on the back of the fretful porcupine.

The teachers, he tells us, have no social position and "they growl like bears with sore heads" about it; they have no political influence, when by union they could exert "an influence which no government would dare to disregard," and so on.

On the whole we prefer Parkin, and although that gentleman has given in the columns of the *Capital* the fullest endorsement of the coarseness, insolence and ineffable tomfoolery of which Jones has been guilty, we scarcely believe he could have known what he was doing. Surely the teachers of New Brunswick will not display the intellectual flabbiness which a sanction of Jones' paper implies; but they will repudiate him as their spokesman and it as their platform. A document more disgraceful to the profession from which it emanated never received publicity, and we cannot regard the assertion in the Opposition press, that Jones expressed the views of the institute, as anything else than a gross libel upon the teachers of Albert County.

It is a thousand pities that the Chief Superintendent's desire that the paper should be suppressed was not acted upon; and it must now be abundantly clear that his object was to prevent the teaching profession from being disgraced, and not as the *Farmer* falsely insinuates, to shield himself and the government from criticism.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

They are discussing in St. John whether fermented or unfermented wine should be used in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The heated character of the controversy induces the thought that the disputants, in their anziety to get at the letter of the Master's request, have forgotten the spirit of all His previous teachings.

The *Capital's* subscriber called in the other day to stop his paper, and it appears from an account of the interview published in that refreshing sheet, that he "sassed" the editor. This leads the *Capital* man to want a convention of editors. Pending the convention we may remark that the way THE GLEANER keeps its subscribers and convinces them of their duty to pay up and look pleasant is by giving them their money's worth every time. In this connection we may observe that the subscription price of the WEEKLY GLEANER is $1.00 per annum.

**An Impressive Ceremony.**

"Tot" said Blossom, "have you ever been baptised?"

"Yeth, I have been baptithed. I remember all about it."

"Do you?" said Blossom. "Did the minister put water on your head like he did on baby Johnnie's?"

"No-o-o," said Tot; "the doctor he jutht scratched my arm and rubbed something on it. It didn't hurt a bit."

**The Duties of a Servant.**

"Mamma," complained a little girl, running into the house, "me and Willie wanted nurse to sit down and let us pour sand in her back, and she wouldn't."

"Certainly not. She did quite right."

"Well, that's what you told her she was to do when she first came."

"I told her she was to let you and Willie pour sand down her back?"

"Not exactly that, mamma, but you told her she was to mind the children.

**A Smart Boy.**

Lady on curbstone—Frankie, where are you going?

Frankie, greatly excited—Oh, ma, I'm going to the fire; can I go?

Fond Ma—Boy, if you go near that fire and get run over by an engine I will break every bone in your body.

Frankie—All right, ma; if I get run over you can.

**Hint from the Husband.**

"How do you like the length of this dress, hubby dear?"

"Too short, altogether.'?

"Too short? Why, that's just the style now."

"Can't help it; I don't like it."

"Well, you wouldn't have me wear one long enough to sweep the sidewalk, would you?"

"No, but I'd like one long enough to sweep the floor. It needs it badly enough."—*Boston Times.*

**Nails in the Sun.**

"Remus, how fur am de sun f'om do earf?"

"Well, Clem, idees differs 'bout that. Some tinks it's furder and udders tink tain't so fur."

"Um! jesso. But what's yo' idee 'bout dem spots on de solarum dat folks talk 'bout?"

"Why, Clem, dem spots am nuffin mo' dan de heads ob de nails dat hol's de sun onto de sky.—*New York Star.*

**Not the Only Thing Made Up.**

Yonkers Statesman.

"No, George; my mind is made up," said Miss Fussanfeather to her fiance, young Crimsonbeak, when that gentleman was trying to persuade her to go somewhere against her will.

"Is it?" replied he, rather tartly.

"Yes it is," was her firm reply.

"Well, it isn't the only thing that's made up about you," said the blooming blood, brushing the powder from the lapel of his coat and reaching for his hat.

**A Mortifying Mistake.**

"Conductor, will you please tell me at what time this train will reach Boston?"

"Well, really, madam, I cannot say," he replied, punching her ticket.

"Isn't it a little singular, sir," she asked, somewhat surprised, "that you cannot give me this information?"

"Not at all singular. The train may never reach Boston, but it is due there at 3:30."

The young woman sank back in her seat, mortified that she, a Boston girl, should have made such a stupid mistake.—*New York Sun.*

**He Was Too Vain.**

Boston Globe.

"I think it about time," said Mrs. DeLaine, "that people stopped talking about Pullman cars. I'm tired and sick of hearing about the men. I think they ought to be called Pull-woman cars, for they carry more women than men."

"I am told," said her husband, in a crushing tone, "that they were named for a man who invented them."

"The more shame for him," she retorted; "he ought to have named them for his wife."

**She Heard the Parson.**

"You did not pay very close attention to the sermon, I fear, this morning."

"Oh, yes I did mamma."

"Well, what did the minister say?"

"He said the picnic would start at ten o'clock Thursday morning, and oh ma, can I go?"


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