

which occasionally marred the effect of his best arguments and most stirring appeals. His accents seemed to say that he could be scathing if he liked, and in this respect we believe his local reputation is fully established. But from the conversational tone of the Conference, there was no occasion to draw forth the Doctor's powers of sarcasm. Of his associates, Mr. Attorney General Henry, and Mr. McCully, leader of the Nova Scotian Opposition, were equally men of mark. With Dr. Tupper, they might be called—to borrow a phrase of Alexander Dumas—"three strong men." In point of energy, the two latter gentlemen were not ill-matched; but for strong, vigorous, downright dialectics, the palm must be given to the Opposition leader.

While the three members just named gave a common impression of the Nova Scotian embassy in point of ability, Messrs. Archibald and Dickey left even a more agreeable one, as to their accomplishments. In debating manner, Mr. Archibald had no superior, and hardly an equal. His easy elocution, and dulcet tones might, in a popular assembly, be drowned or disregarded, but in a conference of his peers they were admirably effective. With such an audience, where every attempt at oratorical effect would have begot suspicion, Mr. Archibald's dispassionate manner, his voice breathing nothing but harmony and good fellowship, won its way insensibly to every man's understanding. If this was art, it was the very highest art; but we incline to the opinion 'twas the native genial character of the man, shining through the thin gauze of professional training and public obligation. His nearest rival in the amenities of debate was, probably, his colleague, Mr. Dickey.

The speaking of the New Brunswick seven was left mainly to Mr. Secretary Tilley, the leader of that Government, Mr. Johnson, Attorney General, Mr. John H. Gray, Mr. Chandler, and Mr. Fisher. The Secretary was not a frequent speaker. He seldom rose except when financial questions were under discussion, and then he delivered himself like a master of the subject. Without having the extraordinary facility of statement which on such subjects distinguishes Mr. Galt, he was always clear, cogent, and to the point. The unpardonable sin in Mr. Tilley's mind, would seem to be, surplusage. There was not in all he said, a sentence thrown away, or a syllable over much. He possesses above most of his colleagues that essential knowledge for a good party leader, the knowledge of where and when to stop. Any ordinary man can open an argument; most men can keep one up, but Mr. Tilley always knows where his matter ends, and when that is out, he never attempts to prolong discussion for the mere sake of an argumentative triumph. And the condensation of his style was no bad index to the tenacity of his character. To carry his point was his all in all, and it is but justice to him to say, he generally succeeded.

Mr. Chandler and Mr. Fisher, both lawyers and politicians of long standing, gave their attention chiefly to the legal and constitutional questions. Their age, experience and abilities, were of the highest value to the Conference during these deliberations. It was pleasant to see—especially in the person of Mr. Chandler, the senior member of the Conference (except Sir Etienne), that years had not been able to still the generous ardor of his blood, or to convert his former patriotism into skepticism of popular intelligence or popular capacity. The youngest member present could not have contended with greater zeal for the privileges of the people than this veteran of Provincial politics, who has been so often held up to us as the *beau ideal* of "an old Tory."

Mr. Gray, also of the New Brunswick bar, more than any of the eastern members, gave the listener, at the first tones of his voice, the idea of an orator. Of a fine manly presence, with a voice of great flexibility and compass, and an ample flow of language, his whole ensemble was that of a finished public speaker. If he has a fault it is in a certain rich redundancy of expression which might well mislead the casual observer into the conclusion that his argumentation was less close and logical than it really is. This, however, would be an error and an injustice. There is nothing whatever inconsequential or inconsecutive even in Mr. Gray's most discursive flights. His panoply of shining words is never to be compared to—

"Saul's plate armor on the peasant boy,
Encumbering, but not arming him."

The same mind that supplies the armor, supplies the strong and sinewy substance to sustain it. Nor is it at all inconsistent, that, as in this case, splendour of diction, and soundness of judgment should be found going aptly together. In short, if for a Bank parlor negotiation, his Province could not have a better representative than Mr. Tilley, or for an Appellate Court than Mr. Chandler or Mr. Fisher, for a popular or Parliamentary audience they certainly could have found no more impressive spokesman than Mr. Gray. Mr. Johnson, the Attorney General of this Province, has great dash and vigor, and would be apt to prove a difficult opponent at *Nisi Prius*.

The Islanders at the other end of the table were less frequent debaters than the Acadians. The two gentlemen from Newfoundland (perhaps in consequence of the peculiarity of their commission, being present only *ex-officio*), spoke rarely and always briefly. But the weight which attaches to personal character was seldom more strikingly exemplified. It is not too much to say, that of the whole thirty-three, no two exercised a more effectual, although so silent, an influence. It was enough to make one proud of British America, as well as sanguine for its future, to have observed closely the tact and sagacity, and the large and enlightened views of Messrs. Carter and Shea. One a merchant, the other a lawyer; one in Opposition, the other in office; one a Catholic, the other a Protestant, they seemed moved throughout by one will and one purpose—to guard the interests of Newfoundland, and, at the same time, to promote the grand design. Nothing petty, or partizan, or mercenary had the least weight in forming their judgments, and the frankness of their explanations were as noteworthy as their freedom from every belittling prejudice.

The group which sat to the right and left of Colonel Gray, the gallant chief of the Prince Edward's deputation, fairly represented every class in that tight little island. Col. Gray himself, a colonist by birth, and one proud and jealous of his birthright, connected by family and regimental ties, with some of the first military reputations in the Empire, was, for his fine personal qualities, and especially by all those who remembered what an admirable presiding officer he made at Charlottetown and Halifax, looked up to with a feeling almost of veneration. Mr. Palmer in all subjects connected with his own profession; Mr. Pope in point of general and varied information; Mr. McDonnell and Mr. Haviland; Mr. Coles and Mr. Whelan, compared favourably with the general composition of the Conference. The latter gentleman, Mr. Whelan, is said to be one of the best public speakers in the Lower Provinces; he certainly is one of the best writers, as the pages of the *Charlottetown Examiner* sufficiently testify.—*Quebec Correspondent of the Montreal Gazette.*

2. VISIT OF THE DELEGATES TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, TORONTO.

On the 3rd ult., the delegates from the Maritime Provinces paid a visit to the Chief Educational Institutions of Toronto. The first institution visited was the Upper Canada College, where a very large number of spectators had assembled in anticipation of a visit to that building. The principal of the college, Mr. Cockburn, and the other professors received the delegates in the hall and accompanied them to the large lecture room where the following address was read: We, the Principal and Masters of Upper Canada College, beg to hail your visit to this part of Her Majesty's dominions as an event of high importance to the Empire of which we form a part, and as likely to influence the history of the world. As a college, we take no direct part in politics, but we cannot deny ourselves the pleasure of congratulating you on the prospect of re-uniting, the scattered bands of Englishmen who have settled in the different parts of British America, and who have hitherto been, to some extent, socially severed, though occupying regions not far apart. It has been our pleasing duty and pride, as a corporation, to educate upwards of 3,000 youth, coming from the Red River, and Newfoundland on the one hand, and from the far north to the West Indies on the other. Anything, therefore, that tends to unite these Provinces—and your visit cannot fail to have this effect—must at the same time extend the fame and influence of this "Ancient Seat of Learning." On these walls are recorded the names of those who, having Academic laurels, have gone forth to the battle of life strong in loyalty and attachment to the institutions of our fatherland. Our *Alumni* are wont to be found in the various fields of usefulness, in the legislature of this country, as well as in the learned professions, and in the army and navy of the British Empire. Gathered together from the various provinces in the proposed federation, our students cannot fail to acquire a better knowledge of each other, and thus aid in drawing closer the social tie which will render this young and prospering Empire a harmonious whole—a child not unworthy its mighty parent. We again give you a hearty welcome, and wish you all success and prosperity in your noble mission.

Col. Gray, of Prince Edward Island, replied briefly and thanked the Principal and Teachers for the kindly sentiments expressed in the address as well as for the hearty welcome which had been extended to them by those assembled there.

The pupils, a large number of whom were in possession of rifles, and represented the Upper Canada College Rifle Association, cheered vociferously, and added not a little to the general interest of the occasion. The call for "three cheers for the Queen" was given by a Southern boy of the name of Clay, a grandson of the celebrated statesman, Henry Clay. At the close of the proceedings this youthful association retired from the building and formed open line