

under the glorious principles of Responsible Government.

Mr. Penny "regards the "American" constitution as a remarkable monument "of human wisdom." We shall write but few words on the American *imbroglio*, as it cannot interest us in the discussion in which we are now engaged. That everything American betrays signs of "human wisdom," we cannot doubt; because the Potter-Wood clique have frequently expressed their sympathy with us in our unfortunate alliance with, and love for, our Fatherland. But that Mr. Penny, and those of whose policy he now announces himself the pamphleteer and defender, should, under the guise of fostering that attachment to Great Britain, condemn the only practicable proposal or scheme by which we may be saved from absorption, is, to us, surprising. We refer Mr. Penny to a quotation from an extreme radical newspaper published in England in the year 1838.

The "Spectator" deals with the troubles in Canada at that time, in a style that may now be fairly reproduced; when pamphlets such as Mr. Penny's, are before us, and when an elaborate plea for the Independence of Canada, by Mederic Lanctot, Esq., is about to issue from the press of "L'Union Nationale":

"If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly."

"The mode is quite another affair; but let us throw out a suggestion. Send a *man* to Canada, and only one, with *carte blanche*—that is, without instructions. Take the best means, in short, of separating in the best manner. In this way, perhaps, complete separation might be avoided. An envoy who was a man, and who, along with all the responsibility, had unlimited authority to treat, might, by giving to the Colonies complete local self-government, preserve their allegiance for general purposes. For local purposes, give them the ancient charter of Massachusetts which is still the constitution of that Sovereign state; for Federal purposes, let them send members to the British Parliament rather than to the American Congress. But who is the man? and where the Ministry with sense to choose and courage to trust the man? Such a plan might not have revolted Pitt, or Canning, or even Wellington. But with a Lord Glenelg at the head of Colonial affairs, and a Prime Minister without a will of his own, the best plan for an emergency requiring sagacity and vigour, is just the one least likely to be adopted. What to do, is the problem they cannot solve: so the whole matter is handed over to the Horse Guards."

Such was the opinion of the leading organ of Radical opinion in England, in 1838.

In what position do we now stand? The contest of 1837 and 1838 was of short duration; it became very nearly a war of extermination between the two races. Now, a singleness of purpose, with unflinching perseverance in its development, attempered with the real spirit of mutual conciliation, flowing from the consciousness of mutual strength, should soothe, and finally blend harmoniously the irritating dissensions arising from difference of origin and nationality; and the peculiar conditions under which two distinct nationalities have been brought into connexion and sought to be amalgamated, should prove a source of congratulation. There is every chance of amalgamation and union, but the worst enemies of reconciliation are those who favor Disunion, and consequent annexation to the United States, rather than a fair even-tempered understanding on serious matters now submitted to our judgment as Colonists of Great Britain.

The "autonomy of the component Provinces" cannot be disturbed by the proposed Union, as every provision—consistent with relative interests—has been made for their protection. Our idea of a league is—Federal Union with the protection of the British Crown. The definition of the power to be granted—respectively to the General and Local Legislatures—is a problem temporarily solved by the statesmen of these Provinces in Conference assembled, but still to be examined by the English House of Commons. The laws made in the General Parliament are to supersede those prepared by the Local Legislatures, but the power of *veto* will still rest with Her Majesty, through her Representative. This power is possessed under our present system, and will be held by Imperial dictation and with our own consent.

Canada is certainly "saturated with American Literature" just now. It is fortunate that we have "the free elastic old English Constitution to which we are accustomed," through which we may be guarded from the demoralising effects of that same "American Literature."

Might we not fairly accuse some in our midst of assisting in forming or composing a portion of that "American literature of a political kind" with which these Provinces are now flooded?

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