

THE NOVA SCOTIAN MUDDLE.

A MUDDIE it has indeed been well called for to us in this part of the Dominion the course pursued by that Province is, to a great extent unintelligible, as it also seems to be among themselves who attempt to explain to us the existing state of affairs there. Until within the last few years we had always imagined that if any portion of British North America was desirous of a union of all the Provinces it was the Province of Nova Scotia. When formerly Upper and Lower Canada were opposed to the measure, or looked coldly upon it, Nova Scotia never seemed to lose sight of it, and generally had something to say in its favor. How, then, this change? The opponents of union complain that they were not consulted on the subject and that an act so important ought not to have been attempted and consummated without, and the consent of the people. Let us concede this; and we are ready to admit that the omission to do so was a grievous blunder, if nothing more. But if Confederation be good in itself, or even necessary, is it not puerile to neglect it, simply on the score of matters of form? A man might as reasonably refuse to eat his dinner, merely because he was not consulted as to the mode of its preparation. Many of the most precious gifts of Providence come to us unasked for, and without any agency of our own; yet they are not the less valuable and acceptable on that account. We shall not here speak of the commercial and other benefits which union is calculated to confer on the Dominion of Canada and the Provinces respectively, the question has been debated and discussed to exhaustion, and is now a thrice-told tale. Besides in addressing the dissentients of Nova Scotia on this head, we fear that we should be preaching to deaf ears, labouring in the vain attempt to convince those who will not be convinced, and "to conciliate those who will not be conciliated." We shall therefore chiefly confine our remarks to an enquiry into the cause and probable results of the Anti-Confederate doings in that Province.

After carefully weighing all the facts of the case that have come to our knowledge, we have reluctantly arrived at the conclusion that the object of those who direct the movement in Nova Scotia is annexation to the United States. Upon no other hypothesis, as far as we can see, can their conduct be accounted for. It is true that they might be actuated in the course they have taken, solely by party spirit, and the lust for power and office—which supposition may be correct as regards some of them, and, to a certain extent, of all—but they have gone to too great lengths to admit of this explanation. But, with annexation as the key of the enigma before us, their policy is easily seen through, and it is, undoubtedly, not wanting in ingenuity, although we believe it is impossible that it should be attended with success. We can best show our meaning by referring to the annexation movement in Lower Canada, or rather in Montreal, in 1849. The leaders in that futile, though imposing *pronunciamento* appealed powerfully to the commercial and pecuniary advantages to be gained by becoming incorporated with the United States, and, perhaps, in that respect, the manifesto issued on the occasion was one of the ablest documents of the kind ever produced on this continent—even the famous documents of the American revolutionary era scarcely excepted. But its authors committed one important mistake. They forgot, or did not know, that the consideration of material interests alone have seldom if ever led to a step such as they contemplated. It was, after all, a mere trader's view of the question. No case could have been better put from their point of view—but the feelings and passions of the masses must be attended to as well as their reason and interests, to compass a revolution, a transfer of allegiance, or a change of dynasty. The Nova Scotian Anti-Unionists have avoided this error of the Montreal Annexationists, and have addressed their countrymen in language mainly intended to arouse their passions and prejudices. They told them that—contrary to the universal opinion of mankind—Union was weakness, and not strength, and that, in their instance, it meant tyranny, robbery, and oppression. When informed that England desired the Union of the Provinces, both for their own good, and to enable her to defend them, if attacked, the answer was that it would serve no such object. But the reverse. They declared that the only aim of the Canadians, in asking for Confederation, was to possess the power of despoiling the Nova Scotians of their wealth, where with to relieve their own poverty. All their declamations against the measure were much of the same character,

with the exception, perhaps, of the grievance that the Customs duties heretofore levied in Nova Scotia, would go into the Dominion treasury instead of the Province. Just as the Scotch Customs duties go into the English treasury. But the climax of these fallacies was attained by Mr. Attorney General Wilkins, in the string of resolutions moved by him in the House of Assembly, and in which he contradicted or travestied several of the best established principles of the British constitution. Now, allowing for a reasonable amount of ignorance on the part of Mr. Wilkins and his abettors, can we conceive that the absurdities are put forth without a purpose, especially as Mr. Howe, at least, was well aware that his friends were uttering nonsense? What, then, is that purpose? In our estimation the intention is to present issues to England which she must necessarily contest to create antagonism between her and Nova Scotia; and to persuade the Nova Scotian people that the Mother Country in combatting unsound doctrines, or denying their correctness, is refusing them their just rights. But Mr. Wilkins, it seems, kept back his most important missile to the last, like a lady's postscript; for on Friday, the 21st instant, he moved two additional resolutions in the Assembly, one of which is in these words:—

"Resolved—That the Imperial Parliament have no constitutional right to authorize a Governor-General, or any other agent of the Queen, to make Senators or create any part of a legislature, with power to tax the people of Nova Scotia, or otherwise legislate for them without a Provincial statute, authorizing them to do so."

The same doctrine was contained in the first series of resolutions, but here it is more plainly and directly enunciated. The object, we suppose, is to revive a question which gave rise to a long and bitter controversy in the old English colonies, now the United States, immediately before the revolutionary war, and helped to bring on that event. In fact it embodies the well known dogma of those days—"taxation without representation is tyranny," and in the existing circumstances of Nova Scotia, it will be made to mean that legislation without representation is injustice. How far it is so is not our present business to enquire and we shall content ourselves with remarking that whether the principle evoked be true or false in itself, it can scarcely be applied to the cause of Nova Scotia in the matter of Confederation which was passed by the British Parliament at the request of the legislature of the Colony. The propriety of making that request, with the manner of doing it, is quite another affair.

In asserting that the men who are at the head of the Anti-Union Crusade in Nova Scotia are evidently labouring in the cause of annexation, it must be understood that we speak of these men only, and of a small minority of the population holding the same political views as they do, and who are to be found in every section of the Dominion. We believe that the eminently loyal people of that Province are entirely ignorant of the intrigues and designs which they would, at once, repudiate and oppose, if openly avowed. But now they dare not, well knowing the consequences. A like game was played in Upper Canada, previous to the rebellion of 1837. The annexationists there, as in Nova Scotia, were few in number, both in the legislature and the country. Their plan was to irritate the masses against the local and imperial governments, and in their irritation to inveigle them into the arms of the United States. But their schemes were unmasked, and the very people whom they had duped, turned upon and crushed them. So it will be in Nova Scotia some day, but it were wise in them, in the meantime to ask themselves, "whither are we drifting?" But on that point we shall have more to say by-and-by.

BARLEY—Advices from Albany state that the receipts of barley at that point for the season of 1866, were 7,400,000 bush., for 1867, 8,800,000 bush. The stock in the hands of dealers is one-fourth short of the usual stock at this season of the year. What little barley is now on the market is in the hands of speculators, who are holding at much higher prices. At Buffalo it is said that no barley of consequence is held in store for sale, and very little is arriving by rail. Large shipments have been made to Pittsburg. In Chicago we learn that the stock in that city is 234,000 bushels less than last year. Sample lots are selling at \$2.20 to \$2.25 per bush. of 48 lbs. The prices in the Cincinnati market are \$2.25 to \$2.35 per bushel, and in St. Louis \$2.00 to \$2.05 per bushel.

THE NORTH AND SOUTH SHORES OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

THE settlement on the south shore of Lake Superior is not older than that on the north shore, yet it has made much greater progress. The population on the United States side is about 35,000. The capital invested there in mining works and enterprises amounts in round numbers to \$50,000,000. A million acres of mineral land have been sold there by the Government. The annual taxes raised for state and municipal purposes are \$250,000. The exports from the mining regions may be set down at \$12,000,000. Twenty-seven steamers of an aggregate tonnage of nearly 18,000 tons, trade on the south shore. In 1866, 1,008 American vessels of 458,600 tons passed through the St. Marie canal, carrying over 13,000 passengers, and paying over \$22,000 as toll.

The details of the exports and imports from the south shore are worth considering in detail. The exports in 1866 were as follow:

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| Copper | 9,267 Tons |
| Iron ore | 317,784 " |
| Pig iron | 11,164 " |
| Fish | 7,291 " |

For the same period the imports were as follows:

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| Flour | 48,911 bbls. |
| Pork | 6,649 " |
| Beef | 4,333 " |
| Butter | 1,067,124 lbs. |
| Cheese | 55,060 " |
| Tallow | 197,410 " |
| Sugar | 630,709 " |
| Tea | 1,653 chfs. |
| Coarse grains | 295,397 bush. |
| Machinery | 818 tons. |
| General merchandise | 5,884 " |

These figures show a very thriving state of things on the south shore of Lake Superior, and they present a marked contrast to the backward state of things on the north shore. On the north shore the population is very scanty, and may be reckoned up at a few score. The capital invested is small, and consequently the country is not developed, and it yields no revenue. The exports from that region are confined to a few barrels of fish. But one solitary steamer of 650 tons burdens the stillness of our waters. No exports of Canadian copper, iron ore or pig iron are reported, and the imports are confined to 166 bbls of flour, 150 of pork, and 3 of beef, 100 lbs of butter, 800 lbs of sugar, 600 bushels of coarse grain and a few other things of small value.

And yet it is admitted that the north shore is as rich in mineral deposits as the south shore. All that is wanted is capital, enterprise and industry, and new cities and towns would spring up like magic all along the north shore. We forget, there is something else wanted to secure this consummation, we mean a liberal policy on the part of the Government regarding the mineral lands of the country, and an amendment of the present system of regulating the Crown Lands by orders in council. It is with great satisfaction we notice that the Government of Ontario is alive to the importance of the mineral lands in Ontario. The Premier, Mr. J. S. MacDonald, has promised a liberal measure on the mineral lands of the Province for next session, and in order that that measure may be as complete as possible, it is announced that two members of the Ontario Government—the Hon. Mr. Richards, Commissioner of Crown Lands and the Hon. Mr. Carling, Commissioner of Public Works, will personally visit the mining region as soon as navigation opens and examine for themselves the resources, and determine on the spot the best means of developing them so as to secure the greatest good not to a few speculators, but to the entire country.

A fruitful source of complaint against the past management of the Crown Lands Department regarding mineral lands, is that there were no fixed and certain rules by which those lands were disposed of. This objection was not without its advantages, in so far as it balked speculators and land sharks; but, at the same time it also hindered legitimate capitalists from going in and developing that country. The variability of the Crown Lands regulations arose from the fact that it is left to each Commissioner to issue what rules and regulations he pleases regarding the Crown Lands, by a simple order in Council. Consequently, these lands are sometimes sixty cents, then eighty, and again a dollar an acre. Royalties are abolished, and again re-imposed, and, in fact, nothing is certain about the Crown Lands Office, except the inevitable uncertainty as to whether an applicant will ever get a patent for the lot he wants. These abuses require correction. They grow up under the