Commencement day was now at hand, and the great dining was to come of at the Professor's. Nor was Mrs. Mack at all disconcerted about it. She seen a thing or two before, and was fully confident in her own ability to meet the exigency.

When the time arrived, all eyes were fixed on Mrs. Mack. How would she appear in the presence of the Governor of Virginia? How in the Professor's and the President's? And what sort of a table would she set, and how would she grace it? Could she go through it with dignity?

Of course all this was enough to try men's souls, but Mrs. Mack was perfectly at home. In etiquette—in conversation—in the arrangement of all the circumstantials and in the formalities of the occasion she showed herself equal to the duties devolving upon her, and evidently interested the Governor very much by her powers of conversation. 'What a charming lady,' said he to his wife, 'is Mrs. Mack! and what a table has she set! and how well she graces it!'

'My dear husband,' said she—'do you know she is a New York cook—who has been a mere servant for many years?'

'I know nothing about that,' said he, 'but if she has, I wish every other lady was a servant and a New York cook, too. We should have something to eat then, my dear, besides fried chickens and ash cake!'

'All men are not epicures, like you, Governor.'

'No—but if they were they would imitate the mathematical Professor, and go to New York and get a wife. A man wouldn't be compelled then to go to a saloon to get a decent dinner,—he could find one at home—now a great rarity.'

Correspondence

To the Editor of the Herald.

Sir,—Being decidedly opposed to the proposed Federal Union of the North American Colonies which is now so intensely engaging public attention, I beg to trouble you with some observations on this subject.

I have already had occasion to notice publicly that the Editor of the *Islander* took a very early opportunity of publishing a short speech of mine, made at the Toronto *Dejeuner*, given on the 3rd inst. to the colonial delegates. At present I do not deem my consistency called in question by what may have fallen from me during an unstudied complimentary speech at a *Dejeuner* where controversy was neither invited nor expected, and would have been deemed out of place if introduced, and where it was, invariably, the good fashion, during the whole tour, for *every one* who was called on to return thanks for the princely hospitality shewn us, to reciprocate, as far as possible, what was most pleasant and agreeable to their kind hosts.

If the Editor of the *Islander's* haste, in publishing the speech alluded to, was intended to do me common justice, he might have published my speeches, or the substance of them, *at the Conference*, from the time it commenced in Charlottetown, until it closed in Montreal, upon all those occasions when the interests of this Colony were especially involved in any proposition there made. They were neither numerous nor long, and I think were sufficiently explicit to have thoroughly convinced him, as they very soon did all the other delegates, what was my opinion of Union, as affecting this Colony. When I am represented as having supported or favored the terms of the Union agreed on *while in any place at the Conference*, excluded from the hearing or presence of those whose sacred interests I there represented, then will I be ready and prepared to answer the man who will venture to make such representation.

Although it rests not with those opposed to the Union to volunteer their objections to it until some *prima facie* reasons are put forth in favor of such a momentous change in the Constitution of the Colony, I shall, nevertheless, offer a few observations on the subject before I put down my pen, which I have been induced to take up [illegible] *Islander*.

When it was proposed last winter, by the Government of Nova Scotia, to have a Conference on the subject of a legislative union of the Maritime Provinces, few persons, if indeed any, ever dreamed of the Conference extending to and ending where and in what it did. The able and far-seeing statesmen, however, who constituted the leading minds of the Canadian Ministry, quickly perceived an opportunity of improving the rather precarious state of their Government. They matured their plans, and met with but little difficulty in persuading the delegates of the Maritime Provinces to relinquish the idea of a *Legislative* and to embrace that of a *Federal* Union of the Provinces including Canada. The Conference was most judiciously adjourned to Canada to discuss the merits and details of the newly-proposed *federal* union. A comfortable steamer, with excellent accommodations and sumptuous fare, was provided for the conveyance of the maritime delegates to Quebec, at which city they landed on the night of Sunday, the 9th October, and as early as 11 o'clock next morning the whole delegates were convened in full Conference.

For the first few days, the leading delegates of the Lower Provinces exhibited caution and vigilance upon every question affecting the interests of these Provinces, and in debate on any proposition met the Canadian ministers with adequate ability. As the business proceeded, and the details of the federal union were from day to day laid down, parties evinced a visible elasticity of judgment, and were observed gradually to harmonize with those whose opinions they had previously met in a style more polemical in character. The current seemed to set with the Canadians. The maritime delegates, one after the other, were observed to drop into the stream; and, with few exceptions, the members of the Conference appeared to float along with it, scarcely producing a ripple on its now gentle surface. The members of the Canadian Government, doubtless, congratulated themselves on their skill and ability, and the federal union was considered the next thing to *un fait accompli*.

What Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have gained for themselves, I have no desire nor, perhaps, any right to question. Their interests were ably represented. Mr. Tilley, on behalf of the latter Province, certainly, and especially where the *Tariff* came into calculation, appeared admirably adapted for driving a bargain for his Province. Each of those Provinces, being deeply interested in securing the Grand Trunk Railway, might doubtless hazard a considerable increase in their taxation, which they would, in the accomplishment of this vast undertaking, have to submit to, whether joined with Canada or not. Prince Edward Island, however, stands isolatedly dissimilar in its geographical position, in its great interests, and in nearly all its circumstances, whether political, commercial or social, that they need only be contrasted with those of the other Provinces, and the question of union is [illegible].

I will now, Sir, call your attention to a few facts which appear in the Report of the Quebec Conference:

First.—That this Island enjoying at present all the rights and advantages of a separate Colonial Government, based on similar constitutional principles, and fully coextensive with those of Canada itself, is asked to surrender them to a Federal Legislature in which the Island is to be represented by merely *five* members in a Lower Branch, to consist of 194, and by only *four* members in an Upper Branch, which is to consist of 76!! The rule of "representation according to population," we are told, gives us no more. Such a rule may apply with reason where the representation of any single Kingdom or State becomes necessary to be re-adjusted *within itself*, because each section or division of the Kingdom or State would be subject alike to the same Government, neither section having the privilege above another of a Government in itself; but when one of the territories or Provinces is invited to go into a Federal Union possessed of the advantage of a separate and complete Government of its own, the surrender of that advantage entitles it to additional representation, over and above what would be due to its relative proportion, by population if it were merely a section or division of any Province. The representation of this Island in the Federal Legislature on the terms proposed would, therefore, be merely nominal.

Secondly.—In the Federal Legislative Assembly, as proposed, Upper and Lower Canada together are to be represented by a majority of 100 members *above* the *aggregate* number of those of all the other Provinces and Colonies combined! If statesmen of the Canadas, holding on some subjects very opposite opinions, can be found to coalesce, as at present, for the common interest of their two Provinces, they will be found to do so in the Federal Legislature, where the interests of the Maritime Provinces conflicts with their own. [illegible] urged that they will be [illegible] the Lower Provinces can [illegible] their votes [illegible] by throwing their weight into the opposite scale. This answer holds out poor hopes indeed. It merely amounts to this: that the prospects of the Lower Provinces would brighten in proportion to the quarrels and dissensions of their neighbors.

Thirdly.—That the Federal Government is to secure without delay the completion of the Inter-colonial Railway from Riviere-du-Loup, through New Brunswick, to Truro in Nova Scotia.

Fourthly.—That all engagements that may, *before the Union*, be entered into with the Imperial Government for the defence of the country shall be assumed by the General Government; and that the general Parliament shall have power to make laws respecting militia, military and naval service and defence.

Fifthly.—That the communications with the North-western Territory, and the improvements required for the development of the trade of the *Great West* with the seaboard, are regarded by the Conference as subjects of the highest importance to the Federal Provinces, and shall be prosecuted at the earliest possible period that the state of the finances will permit the parliament to do so.

The communications with the North-western Territory, here alluded to, mean a great highway to be opened up many hundred miles overland; and the development of the trade of the *Great West* means nothing less than the widening and re-constructing of the Canals,—works of great magnitude and enormous expense, in order to permit the passage of vessels of larger burthen down the St. Lawrence.

I would now ask if it is possible that the Federal Government can accomplish the great works agreed to in the Report of the Conference without an increase of its tariff! These works, to recapitulate, are as follows:

1st. Military defences.
2nd. Grand Trunk Railway.
3rd. Communications with the North-west Territory.
4th. Reconstructing and enlarging Canals.

While noticing these, let me enquire what great advantages the people of this Colony are likely to derive from these, or any one of them, when accomplished! Respecting the first, it is not pretended that one halfpenny is to be laid out in this Island in erecting fortifications or other military works. On the contrary, it is known that the military engineers have stated it would be a waste of money to erect works of this nature in this Island. It is true we would be entitled to a sum sufficient to drill and—if need be, to arm our militia, by the militia laws, if we went into the Union, would have a share in the glory of marching (because those laws would compel them to do so) to the utmost limits of the frontiers of Canada, with a gallant Colonial Brigadier General at their head, and fighting for the protection of Colonial interests in general, and of Canadian property in particular! In making this remark, I am not insensible of the natural obligation that rests upon every able-bodied man to take his part and risk in the defence of his country. If, unhappily, our Colony should be threatened with the assault of an enemy, I have never advocated that in such an event each individual is to sit down with folded arms and wait for Great Britain to send forth her troops and her treasure to defend us. Many who have heard my sentiments, freely spoken on this subject, know them to be of a contrary purport. Our militia will, doubtless, have to be organized. The Colonial Minister, in his despatch of the 15th of last month, has remarked that the state of affairs respecting our militia "has no parallel in British North America." I attempt not to deny the truth and force of this observation; and I am prepared to support in the Legislature such a reasonable law as will remove the reproach from a British and patriotic people as speedily as possible, and to vote for a reasonable sum for that purpose. But I do not think the people of this Colony would consent to such a constitutional change as would subject them to be taxed heavily for the support of a militia force, and that force to be compelled, at a moment's notice, to leave their own Colony undefended, and their were being marched by compulsion to defend the frontiers of Upper Canada. It is said that in the event of a rupture with one foreign Power in particular, viz: the United States, the battle ground for the defence of *this Island* would of necessity be the frontiers of Canada. This I do not concede. Should such a misfortune occur in winter, the most likely of times, we should be sufficiently well fortified to be out of the range of danger. Should it occur in summer, the British fleet, or a sufficient portion of it, would have to protect the coal mines of Sydney, Cape Breton, and those of Pictou, as indispensable to its own existence on this side of the Atlantic, and, while doing so, I do not imagine its orders would be to let Prince Edward Island look out for itself. Let us, therefore, do with *our own* militia, in proportion to our population and means, the same as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are now doing, and Great Britain will neither cast us off or compel us to go into the Union. Before closing my remarks on this head, I must remind you, Sir, that by one of the articles of the Report of the Delegates, Canada is left at liberty, without consulting either of the other Provinces, to enter into any engagement she pleases respecting her military defences, *previously* to the Union taking place, and such engagement is to be assumed by the General (Federal) Government, whatever may be the nature of it!

With respect to the Grand Trunk Railway, I am at a loss to imagine what particular benefit this Island is to derive from it. While its construction is going on, it may afford employment for some of our *surplus* laborers, and so soon as it is completed it will open up new farming districts in New Brunswick, and thereby add to the agricultural productiveness of that Province. It will afford great facilities for supplying the St. John and Halifax markets with the grain and other agricultural produce which is to come down from Upper Canada so soon as the western canals are re-constructed and widened, "for the development of the trade of the Great West with the seaboard," as stipulated in the Report of the Delegates. If this be an advantage to this Island, it will, I dare say, participate pretty largely in it.

The subjects numbered 3 and 4, if the promise regarding them be intended to be honestly fulfilled,—and each section of the Province interested in their completion will demand their being carried out,—will call for the expenditure of many millions of dollars. Every one can form some idea of the enormous expense of pulling down and re-building the locks of canals and deepening those communications, as well as the vast sum of money necessary to make highways into the North-west territory. When performed, the benefit these stupendous works will confer on Prince Edward Island would not, I suppose, be difficult to estimate. The Grand Trunk Railway would be better fed, and the markets of St. John and Halifax, the better supplied with what is now furnished by this Island.

It is known in Canada, though not so well, I believe, in the Lower Provinces, that [illegible] have, within the last two or three months, urged upon the Canadian Government the necessity of taking upon herself a large share of the burthen of the military defences of the Province, and of making known to the Imperial Government, before the next meeting of Parliament, to what extent and in what manner, the Canadian Government intend to do so. Canada now sees that this unpleasant duty cannot longer be averted, and the question will inevitably be brought to an issue immediately by the British Government. The Canadian ministry, therefore, are preparing to meet the difficulty. They feel that millions of dollars must be expended for this service,—hence much of their great anxiety at present to carry the Union of the Colonies, and to have this burthen to some extent placed upon the shoulders of the Lower Provinces.

The present debt of the different Provinces and Colonies, per head of the population, is as follows:

Canada,	95s.
Nova Scotia,	90s.
New Brunswick,	107s.
Newfoundland,	48s.
P. E. Island,	18s. 6d.

The present Tariff of Canada is 20 per cent.

Nova Scotia,	12½
New Brunswick,	15
Newfoundland,	[illegible]
P. E. Island,	10

In addition to the expense of the great public works to which I have alluded must be calculated the expense of the new or Federal Government. As it is to have the patronage of appointing the local Governors,—a privilege, by the bye, which gave great weight to the arguments in favor of the Union—so it must pay them. It must, of course, create a staff of civil officers. From the Governor General downwards, the pay of whom and the expense of the Federal Legislature, if corresponding with the magnificence of the new Parliament Buildings at Ottawa, must vastly add to the cost of the present Civil Establishment. I do not take into account the 80 cents per head to be allowed each Province, in proportion to its population, towards defraying the expense of its local Government, as the sum thus derived will be about equivalent to the expenses of each Government as at present established. The subsidy, however, agreed to be paid the Lower Provinces (except Nova Scotia), and which must be a charge on the Federal Government, will amount annually to about £128,000, N. S. currency. To say that the Federal Government can accomplish the works to which I have referred, and sustain all the foregoing demands on its revenue, besides providing for all contingencies and its yearly growing wants, without raising the present Canadian tariff, is puerile in the extreme. At the most moderate estimate, it must be raised 5 per cent. higher, making 25 per cent. altogether, that is, 15 per cent. above the present tariff of this Colony. Now, the people of this Colony may raise their taxation 15 per cent. higher, and join the Union; or they may raise it 15 per cent. higher, and remain separate, as they are. Let us, therefore, see how we would stand by joining the Union, and raising our taxation 15 per cent. higher:

Cr.

We would be permitted to retain our local revenue which, by the *Islander's* calculation, would be	£57,687
Deduct error, being excise duty on spirits, tobacco, &c., as it would belong to Federal Government	£1,791
	£55,896
The Federal Government agree to pay us, as per *Islander's* statement	£13,922
Deduct error, balance on postal revenue,	£1,590
	£12,332
Total receipts from all sources, if Union be accepted,	£68,228

Dr.

Our impost and excise duties for the year 1863, under our present rate of tariff yielded,	£46,648
Canadian tariff, 10 per cent. additional, as estimated by *Islander* would amount to	£27,187
If increased 5 per cent. additional,	£9,062
	£82,897
Cr. as above.	[illegible]8,228
Yearly loss to the Colony,	£14,66[illegible]

Let us now try how we would stand if we choose to tax ourselves 15 per cent. higher without going into the Union:

Our revenue yielded last year from all sources,	£[illegible]
10 per cent. taxation additional would give us, as estimated by the *Islander*,	£27,187
Five per cent. further, if put on, would be,	£9,062
P. E. Island revenue with tariff of 25 per cent.	£97,937

Dr.

We expended in 1863,	[illegible]58,661
Balance at the disposal of the Colony for any purpose,	£[illegible],276

Thus, if we choose to tax ourselves as high as we would be taxed by joining the Union, and *still keep out of it*, we would have £[illegible] surplus revenue [illegible] purchasing lands, or for any other purpose.

It has been stated by some of the ardent friends of Union that the Canadian Government have given a solemn pledge that their tariff shall be reduced to 15 per cent. Where this "solemn pledge" is to be found I am not aware. It is certainly not to be found in the Report of the Delegates. I have shewn you, however, that that Report does contain pledges to carry into effect the great public works I have commented on, including the organization of the militia and the military defences of Canada. And these pledges must be deemed articles of the Union, if the Union be accomplished. *The mere promise* of a minister of the present day to reduce the tariff passes away with his breath. He and his party may be out of office to-morrow, and their successors are not bound by either what he may have said or intended.

The Editor of the *Islander*, who has been so captivated with the proposed Federal Union, has certainly been beaten with his own figures. The Editor of the *Protestant* carries a pencil as well as the Editor of the *Islander*, and has compelled the latter to admit that, in place of a profit to this Colony, the terms of the proposed Union will, if accepted, produce a loss of £12,444 per year. The Editor of the *Islander*, however, designates this as *apparent loss*, and endeavors to fritter it away by arguments of the most puerile description that have ever before appeared in the *Islander*, or any other sheet with the pretensions of a Public Journal. He proceeds mainly on the assumption that the Canadian *Tariff* is to be lowered!—That this Island will not, for many years to come, import as many goods from Great Britain and foreign countries as it did in the year 1863?—and that cotton, linen, and woolen goods will cost less in price than in 1863? I will not waste time in answering these arguments. The truckmen at the corners of the streets on a Saturday evening will undoubtedly do so. But the essence of the Editor of the *Islander's* reasonings is, that the resources of our Island are fast diminishing; that our trade is dwindling down to nothing; that all our prosperity is a thing of the past, and that, in short, we are on the road to ruin! The time was when the Editor of the *Islander* depicted the future prospects of the Island in very different colors. Had the question of Union, now under discussion, been proposed and similarly dealt with, twenty-five years ago, and had the Editor of the *Islander* been in his present place, he would, of course, have used the same arguments as he does now, and predicted at the end of the then future 25 years our resources and our revenue would be less! In one of his last editorials, specially relating to myself, he raised up a "being of vast proportions," which he styled the "Genius of Progress," but when contemplating the future prospects of our Island, I fear his self-constructed idol, the "Genius of Progress," had sadly forsaken him. The words, however, that he puts into the mouth of his genius are:—"Omnibus, qui patriam conservarint, adjuverint, auxerint certum esse in coelo definitum locum, ubi beati aevo sempiterno fruantur," may have a signification a little beyond what at first occurred to the Editor of the *Islander*. I think their translation runs somewhat thus: "To all those who protect, assist and enlarge their native country there is a *certain determined place* in heaven, where the blessed enjoy eternal life." I have no doubt, Sir, that there are persons in this world with minds and principles so constituted that, as a reward for their patriotism in advocating the interests of their country, they would give a decided preference to a *place* on earth.

In apologising for the great space which I have occupied in your columns, and which I by no means intended should be so long when I first took my pen in hand, I beg to conclude with a few words of advice to my fellow-colonists. Let the Union take place if the other Maritime Colonies think it their interest to go into it. Should they change, after a sufficient trial, be decidedly unsuccessful, this Island may consent to join it, and the British Government, if it is their wish and interest to see us all united, will easily procure our admission. Let us not rush into it now, because, if we do, and it proves injurious to us hereafter, it will be in vain for us to sue for a separation. We would be told that we joined "for better, for worse," and that we must put up with our lot.

I remain, Sir,
Your obd't servant,
EDWARD PALMER.

Nov. 28 1864.

To the Editor of the Herald.

Sir,—I am happy to inform you that a Debating Club, denominated the "Caledonian Debating Club," was got in operation in this settlement on Friday night last. Over twenty-five members were present on the occasion, all of whom took an active part in the discussion.

Judging from the improvement made in speaking the first night, and the desire which all the members show for the future prosperity of the Club, I feel fully assured that considerable benefit will be derived from it by its members.

A great deal of praise is due Mr. John Gavin, who was chiefly instrumental in getting the Club into operation, and who very kindly consented to act as its President. At the opening of the Club, he very eloquently spoke of the beneficial results likely to accrue from a properly conducted Debating Club in any community, and the determination the inhabitants of our settlement should have to equal, if possible, that of any other in the progress of education.

Hoping that you will give this room in your valuable and largely circulated journal,

I remain,
Your obd't servant,
Wm. A. McDONALD, Secretary.

Grand River, Lot 14, Nov. 28, 1864.

The Herald.

Wednesday, December 7, 1864.

CONFEDERATION INDEFENSIBLE IN THIS ISLAND.

The *Islander*, having been tripped up in its own figures and reasoning on the Confederation question, is forced to change its tactics each week, and at every change to sustain a more crushing defeat. By mere persistency, and columns of figures which are being profusely *invented* and used by our new Finance Secretary, he seeks to bewilder and deceive the people in the same way as he appears to have been deceived himself by the Canadians. The Union advocates may resort to figures which have no bearing whatever upon the question under discussion, and to wholesale lying and deception, in order to carry their point; but men of common sense will be guided in their decisions by the Report of the Quebec Convention, and not by the mere assumptions of any editor or politician. We wouldn't give a farthing rush for any figures or assertions which are not borne out by the Report. Let no man be deceived by the magnificent promises and golden prospects held out to the people of this Island by the *Islander* and the *Examiner*. The Quebec Convention guarantees nothing of the kind, and were the inhabitants of this Colony to rush into Union upon the representations of three or four wily politicians whose eyes are set upon the Ottawa Buildings, upon Colonial Governorships, large salaries, etc., etc., they, like the simple goat in the fable, would have ample time to rue their folly in descending into a pit at the suggestion of the cunning fox. The Report, and the Report alone, is the only authentic source of information we possess; the only sign-post by which we must be guided; and any statement or calculation which is not based thereon is worthless, and only intended to deceive the simple. We have not the slightest doubt that every influence, and every scheme and corrupting suggestion, which ingenuity can devise, will be resorted to in order to gain over a majority in our Legislature, and if that fails, a majority of our people to the scheme of Confederation. Insinuating flattery, the attractions of the dining room, the thousand and one [illegible] of weak minds, will be unsparingly applied to Country Members, and their hopes and fears worked upon, their vanity tickled, and their ambition excited, both previous to and during the discussion of the subject. Nor will prodigal promises and [illegible] golden prospects, founded upon false figures and directly at variance with the Report, be spared in the attempt to carry the country, should an appeal to it be found necessary, as it will be if a majority of our Legislature cannot be duped and corrupted, as we have every reason to believe they cannot. These are the dangers by which we are surrounded; for were Confederation discussed upon its own intrinsic merits, without any undue influence being brought to bear upon the mind, it would be unhesitatingly scouted in this Colony. Those who seek to advance that scheme know this fact well, and hence it is that with the exception of the *Islander*, which, at all events, has been a consistent advocate of Union, none of the Converts to Confederation will attempt to head the storm of unpopularity which now rages against them and their pet project. They will probably wait until the storm lulls and when they imagine the people are off their guard, before they vigorously advocate the views which they now secretly cherish. We have too much confidence in the intelligence of this Colony to suppose for a moment that it will relax its vigilance and hostility to a scheme which insures us nothing but increased taxation; and we also feel assured that it will take much cleverer men than either Col. Gray or the Editor of the *Islander* or *Examiner* to convince any intelligent man that the terms of Confederation proposed to us in the Report of the Convention will not, if accepted, operate most disastrously on this Colony. We had every reason to expect a special grant from the General Government if the Delegates wished us to enter the Confederation. Our isolated position debarred us from participating in the benefits of the Inter-Colonial Railroad and other public works to which we will be called upon to contribute. Neither defences, railroads nor canals are guaranteed us, so that if it were found necessary five years hence to construct a railroad from Charlottetown to Summerside, it being merely a "local" work, it would have to be built at our own expense. We have no developed mines or minerals, nor even extensive Crown Lands, as have the other Provinces, from which to derive a local revenue without direct taxation on the people, but we have a rental system which has no parallel except in the history of Ireland—a system which loudly calls for redress, and yet, with all these considerations and claims upon the Convention, a paltry grant of £200,000 was refused us, although that sum twice told will be extracted from us and lost to the Colony in twenty years. In the expressive words of the *Protestant* the convention "gives to Newfoundland $150,000 a year for ever, to New Brunswick $63,000 a year for ten years, to Canada an unlimited sum for works of defence, and to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada millions of dollars for the construction of the Inter-Colonial Railway, while the only special favor it guarantees to the people of Prince Edward Island is Intolerable Taxation, without the slightest chance of ever having a shilling of what they pay expended in developing our resources."

Alas for poor Prince Edward Island! Her diminutiveness and the divisions and carelessness of her representatives at the Convention have assured to her nothing but the contempt and ridicule of her neighbors. Will the men of Prince Edward Island submit to this? Will they permit themselves to be sold by men who have usurped powers which were never conferred upon them? or rather will they not rise in their might and tell these men who, either through ignorance or design, have played the traitor into Canadian hands, that they have betrayed the trust which was reposed in them, and that they are no longer worthy of confidence. A few weeks ago we quoted the *Islander's* figures—and which, we would again remark, are not corroborated by the Report, and proved therefrom that under the proposed Confederation this Island would receive only £60,000 from the General Government, whereas, with the application of the Canadian tariff to our Impost Duties, our revenue would amount in round numbers to £80,000, thus assuring to us, at the very lowest calculation, a yearly loss of £20,000. Would it not be better for us to remain out of the Confederation for ten years and tax ourselves extra to that extent for the purpose of converting our leaseholds into freeholds, for improving our roads, bridges, etc., and perfecting our system of Education, rather than enter into a scheme which would, at the very outset, raise our taxation to that sum, but with this difference, that instead of being spent in the Island, it would be expended in assisting to build the Inter-Colonial Railroad or in erecting fortifications in Canada. Let the people remember this, and be led away by no visionary advantages which are founded upon false representations. The Report contains the whole of the financial scheme, whilst that of the *Islander* is either pure invention or at best the mere assumption or surmise of its Editor, which can deceive no one but a fool, and is of that species of logic which knaves generally employ.

COLONEL GRAY'S UNION "PICTURES."

Last week we published for the especial amusement of our readers eight of Colonel Gray's interrogations on the momentous question of Colonial Confederation. We now proceed to give his remaining eight questions, in order that the public may be further amused by their perusal. They are as follows:

1st. Will you record your votes among those who are content to vegetate like Dormice, for whom the time never arrives, whose blighting influence has retarded our prosperity beyond a parallel; who distrust and decry all attempts of the persevering and enterprising among us; who close their hands against their fellows, and whose aim it ever has been that Prince Edward Island shall remain isolated and unknown?

2nd. Shall our noble farmers live in discouragement and gloom; shall our sons and daughters seek out a scanty livelihood here, or be banished to a foreign land?

3rd. Shall our Tenantry live dissatisfied and discontented?

4th. Shall our lands be occupied and our population remain one of eighty, instead of counting by hundreds of thousands?

5th. Shall the mine of wealth we possess in our fisheries be still robbed from us by strangers?

6th. Shall our town remain unbuilt, our harbors comparatively deserted, and immigrants virtually driven from our shores?

7th. Shall our Legislature be slighted and thwarted, and its most solemn enactments trampled under foot?

8th. Shall we refuse to enter the Confederation, and forfeit all chance of profiting by the handsome terms now offered, through the liberality of the Convention; and hereafter find ourselves compelled to enter it without a shilling?

With reference to the first question above given, we need not waste our time in making many observations. Before asking any person to record his vote in favor of Confederation, Colonel Gray and other advocates for it, should shew what benefits are to result to this Island from its accomplishment. As the writers in favor of the scheme have hitherto failed to show that a Confederacy, if effected, would be beneficial to the people of this Island, they cannot, with any show of reason, accuse those who oppose it of retarding the prosperity of the Colony. When Colonel Gray shall have proved, by fair and logical reasoning, that any real advantages will result to this Island from the consummation of the proposed Federation, or that we shall not lose enormously thereby, then and not until then, can he justly accuse its opponents of being inimical to the best interests of this Colony. Sweeping and groundless assertions will have no influence upon the minds of the thinking portion of the community, particularly when these assertions are confronted, as they have been by the opponents of Confederation, with facts and figures, which must have satisfied every sensible man that the accomplishment of the Confederation, on the terms contained in the Report of the Quebec Conference, would prove to be exceedingly great injury to this Colony, and that the promoters of the scheme are very far from being the true friends of our people.

As to the dark future shadowed forth in the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth interrogations, for the people of this Island if they remain out of the Confederation, we differ in toto from Colonel Gray. We have, in previous Nos. of this paper, proved, we think, to the satisfaction of our readers, that the acceptance by this Island of the terms contained in the Report of the Conference, would not tend to better the condition of our farmers, nor indeed of any portion of our people. It would be the means of rendering our tenantry even more dissatisfied and discontented than they now are; as it would take away from them all means of purchasing their lands, by reason of the increased taxation it would certainly entail upon them. Confederation, as we remarked last week, would not have the effect of drawing emigrants to our shores; but it would, on the contrary, direct the stream of emigration towards Canada and the other Provinces where the erection of public works would give employment to a large number of people. Our Island being almost exclusively adapted to agricultural purposes, that ready and remunerative returns for labor which is of the first importance to the needy immigrant, could not be secured in so great a degree as it could be in Colonies where large public works would be in course of accomplishment. So far as the prosecution of the fisheries around our coast is concerned, there is at present nothing to prevent the people of the Sister Colonies from engaging in the business on as large a scale as they may desire. They have all the privileges in this respect that the people of the United States have. But there can be no doubt that whether Confederation be effected or not the fisheries of this Island will, in a very short time, receive that at-