which the name now escapes us, crawled in and out, and afforded refuge to many little animals neither lovely nor pleasant.

Many a snake and lizard, many a mouse and rat, many a toad, and many a frog, did Custaloga rouse as he advanced swishing before him with a stick he picked up. But it was not for this he cared. What he looked out for was the bear, which prowled in that marshy place, and which on occasion had afforded to himself and others such glorious sport. But now a bear would have been an awkward customer to deal with—though even now not too much for a man to venture on—and Custaloga looked warily around as he advanced, expecting every moment to see one of those awkward animals rise up and confront him.

He smiled grimly as he thought of all Dick Harvey would have said, had he known Custaloga was in Big Brake Dell without powder, and all 'through a tryin' to save one of them cursed Injines. 'It are a dark hole anyhow—but no powder to flash—I expect then it takes two men to see a bar.'

The ground was so tangled and difficult with vines and creeping plants, that Custaloga proceeded but slowly. His ear, however, drank in every sound and read every sign and feature of the woods. In a few minutes more he came in sight of the stream.

It was a narrow and sluggish bayou, of an exceedingly dangerous character to novices in the Big Brake Dell. In almost every part it was so overgrown with bushes, creeping parasites, vines and plants, that any one might have walked on, unconscious of the presence of water, and fallen in, in which case destruction was all but certain, the narrow stream of water being deep. It was down in this cool and marshy place, where for ages the sun had never peered, that the bears must have found rich hiding-places, and made good meals of snails and and other creeping things.

Custaloga had stepped out from the thick cover of the forest, and was about to seek the bridge which was invariably used by all who knew the place, when as he came in sight of the bridge itself, he saw two Indians—the men he thought in his rear, but who had come down and intercepted him at the only place for miles round he could traverse the Dell—preparing to cross the bridge themselves.

One was close to it, the other was about ten yards in his rear.

Custaloga knew that he was not seen, and was preparing once more to run before his relentless and fierce enemies—and man in his savage state is indeed fierce and relentless—when his senses of sight and hearing were arrested by a scene of startling novelty.

Custaloga, unarmed almost, in his wildest moment of fanciful imagination, could not have expected such an auxiliary.

The bridge over the Dell Bayou was formed by a huge tree that had fallen across, and from which the passing hunters, both white and red, had lopped occasionally such branches as were inconvenient to their passage. The tree forked about the middle of the stream, and a bough stood up apparently still green, though the verdure was purely parasitical, the foliage falling thickly around from a height of about ten feet.

The Indian was on the tree—astride and pulling himself on slowly—the bough being narrow and too ill-shaped to be walked on, except at a run and under pressing circumstances; and then, we can assure the reader from personal experience, the way a man moves 'is a caution to slow dogs.' The Shawnee had slung his rifle, and on reaching the ford, was in the act of raising himself up, when he yelled, leaped up on his feet, and made one leap to the bank whence he came.

A roar, a growl, that would have shook the nerves of even many an ordinary sportsman, at once explained the red-skin's terror. A bear was concealed under the dense foliage, whence he lazily poked his head. It was a huge animal, though not an active one.

'Wagh!' said the second Indian, levelling his gun.

But he did not fire, retreating instead towards the trees in which he was imitated by the first. The animal turned back and showed every inclination to decline any contest; but this in no way suited the idea of the Indians, who, proud always of killing a bear, saw in this some compensation for their disappointment with regard to the Wyandot.

Having gained a cover, they both fired. The beast turned with an angry growl indeed, for both balls had hit him, though he was only slightly wounded. Custaloga could not resist the impulse of early education. The Indians were loading; he had nothing to fear. He appeared suddenly from behind his cover, and waved his hands to the Shawnees, who, however, continued loading.

'Ha! ha!' he cried, 'the Shawnees are dogs—look! a Wyandot sends his black brother to fight for him—go! two Shawnees can only fight one bear—Custaloga will leave them.

And he dived into the forest, laughing heartly to himself at the singular event which had freed him from the attack of two armed Indians with whom he would have found it difficult to cope, without powder to load his gun. He would have liked to see the issue of the contest; but interests most dear to him were at stake, and he could not spare a moment for such a purpose.

He turned therefore, just as the bear made a spring towards the Shawnees, and began moving rapidly down the bayou towards the only other place where it was fordable, and that was the mouth.

As he neared the Scioto, the characteristics of the Big Brake Dell departed; the trees became small, the soil became dry, until the dull stream flowed at last over a wide and shallow expanse of gravel, though which Custaloga easily waded.

Here we must leave him and return to the Block House, where at that hour events were occurring of deep importance to this eventful history of a time and a place which saw more tragedies in a single week of time—domestic in their character it is true—than many a European country in a year; tragedies which fully explain the hatred of many Americans for the red-skins.

There is scarcely an old family in the United States which cannot tell some terrible story of its ancestors, while many indeed have really suffered all that is so exquisitely portrayed in the 'Wept-of-Wish-ton-Wish,' by America's great romancist.

We do not pretend to justify the burning hatred which many Americans of the western frontier feel for the red-skins—a hatred which prompts sometimes to deeds of blood and rapine; but it is difficult for those who stay at home at ease to comprehend the fearful and constantly-recurring provocations which drove the kindly settlers of the west to terrible acts and murderous retaliations.

One must lose a beloved child, a dear and darling wife, a sweet connection of love and affection, by the axe of the untamed savage, to understand the cause which drive borderers to acts so much at variance with the pure and holy tenets of the religion which Americans, in general, not only profess but practice in their homes, their firesides, and in the relations of government and society.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To The Editor of the Islander.

Sir;—Having received a communication from a gentleman in England, desirous of information respecting the Island, and seeking to invest capital in any legitimate source, whence a fair profit might be invested; I replied thereto, hoping to impress favorably, though describing (as I trust) truthfully its merits and demerits, and also furnishing statistics.

By last English mail, I was favored with a further communication, setting forth, as it appears to me, in language plain and truthful, a means whereby the welfare of this Island may be much enhanced, if those who are personally interested will help themselves, and those who desire the advancement of this Island would, by example or precept, encourage and assist in its fulfilment.

Hoping its publication may direct the attention of the Farmer to a more remunerative crop than the impoverishing one of oats, and thereby increase his means and benefit his position, I beg to submit it for your insertion; omitting portions where I may not deem it positively necessary to give it in its entirety.

London, 30th August, 1865.

Dear Sir,—I was duly favored with yours of the 10th inst., and accompanying documents, for which please accept my warmest thanks.

I have carefully perused your documents, and note the price of produce and stock, and the high price of labor, (3s. with food for unskilled labor), and although your land may be cheap, and each Farmer his own landlord, it is not very clear how he can become wealthy, or even get a fair return for capital (agricultural laborers here get 8s. to 10s. per week without rations.) At the same time, I can well comprehend the force of your remark when you say "P. E. Island wants capital, energy and enterprise for its development." The wants are many and can be pointed out, but it is not so easy to substitute a remedy. Looking at your statistics, exports, and the smallness of their quantity, after oats (which exceeds one million bushels), I do not see how capital can be profitably employed either in agriculture or in commerce.

The nature of your produce, and the small money value it fetches in a foreign market, after paying freight and all other charges, leaves a small return to go into the pockets of the producers. And again, looking at your prices, and the prices ruling here, I do not see any inducement to the merchant to embark capital in your trade.

I am rather struck at the anomalous position your statistics place you in, by showing you do not grow as much wheat as feed yourselves, but import flour largely from your Yankee friends; and, in return, the half of your exports go to the States to liquidate the imports.

Now, what occurs to me is, that your farmers produce articles (barley, oats and potatoes,) possessing too little money value for export, and after paying freight, charges and commission, they can get very little to themselves; and I would therefore suggest that they would grow a different class of crops for export, entirely, that is, crops possessing more money value, and by doing so, they would stand the chance of getting more for their own pockets. On a rough glance, the crops that appear to me to be more profitable would be Flax or Linseed, Hemp, Hops, and Beet Root, for the manufacture of Sugar. You will answer you have got no mills to manufacture the flax; or sugar factory to buy your Beet; or merchant to buy your Hops. I answer that is true, but the capitalist requires to be equally cautious, and you cannot expect him to go to the expense of placing down factories till he sees some prospect of getting a supply of the raw material. If any number of your farmers will join together and say they will grow 10,000 tons of Flax and Hemp, or 40,000 tons of Beet, or 100 puckets of Hops, I will undertake that they will not lack for Factories to take all their produce.

I would next glance at your Fisheries. Your waters seem to be teeming with fish, but the appliances are on too small a scale. The whole should be under one management, with steamers to carry the produce to a central depot; and to do all this, a joint stock company would be the best, as the outlay would be heavy. If, then, you can get your farmers to guarantee the growth of the articles enumerated, or any other thing possessing money value more suitable for your land and climate, and could get all your fishermen to come to an understanding among themselves to come under the management of a large concern, and to receive a share in it, and so much money in lieu of their boats and tackle, then I think some good could be done both for the prosperity of the Island and those connected with it. If you can suggest anything legitimate, possessing sound features for the investment of capital, showing a prospect of a good return, you need not trouble yourself about capital. The truth is, you must hold out some inducemeet to us here before capital can be drawn to your Island.

From these hints, if anything occurs to you, I shall be glad to hear from you at your convenience.

Yours truly,

* * * *

The Hon. John Aldous, Ch'town.

The culture of Flax has been oft-times urged upon the attention of the Agriculturalist, but has hitherto attracted but little notice, owing to the want of enterprise to erect mills for its manufacture. Assistance, upon conditions, is offered by this communication, both in the cultivation of Flax, Hops and Beet Root, and sincerely hoping that our farmers may be sufficiently alive to their interests to give the subject submitted to them their earnest attention, is the desire of,

Sir, yours truly,

JOHN ALDOUS.

Land Office, 20th Sept., 1865.

The Herald.

Wednesday, October 4, 1865.

ONE OF THE "HALF-STARVED" EDITORS ON THE "RAMPAGE."

We perceive by an editorial correspondence in the *Examiner* of the 25th ult., that its editor has attempted in the neighboring Provinces a task upon which he never ventured at home, namely, a defence of Confederation. As our contemporary has adduced in favor of the scheme what he, no doubt, considers good argument, we can do no less than duly note the fact, even at the risk of eliciting a rejoinder of personal abuse. The wandering editor, in the first place, attempts a defence of all advocates of Confederation from the charge of self-interest in their zeal for the grand scheme. Of course, the champions of the measure, and especially those who, during their previous life, had been most loud in denouncing the volunteer organizations which have had "British connection" for their object, and in urging the rejection of all schemes of union, "whether Legislative or Federal," calculated to strengthen the ties between the Colonies and the Mother Country—schemes which, when viewed from a Prince Edward Island stand point, were only designed to rivet more firmly the chains which bound the "bleeding tenant" to the yoke of an exacting proprietory despotism—we say we admit that all the friends of Confederation, whether "new-found" or not, have a perfect right to offer such a defence of the faith that is in them, as "E. W." has under date of "Shediac, Sept. 15, 1865." We must also admit *a fortiori* that the humble tax-payer, who will be most deeply affected by the proposed change, has a still greater right to scan closely the actions and motives of those who recommend the formation of a new nationality and the assumption of the duties and responsibilities of a *quasi*-independence, or, in other words, recommending a change which, while still retaining the trammels of Downing street in addition to the creation of a "secondary power" at Ottawa, would also impose upon a few scattered and undeveloped Provinces the greater share of defence against a rich and powerful neighbor, whose interests and destiny may be identical with our own, although hostile to those of European Governments—a change which would not only make us responsible for the quarrels of others, but also compel us to largely foot the bill of expenses. No public man of strict integrity and honesty need be afraid of passing through this ordeal; it is only your political Jack Ketch, who fears in every man an enemy or an officer of justice, that is ready to cry out against watchfulness on the part of the public. Let us examine, then, in the light of well-known facts, the logic and the protestations of innocence which proceed from each prominent advocate of Confederation—our wandering correspondent among the rest. It is all very well for him to say that questions of this kind are "impertinence," and that the attributing of "mere selfish motives is a very stale dodge, and cannot impose upon any intelligent person;" but suppose we prove that no person in this Colony, save the advocates of this scheme will derive any benefit from its adoption, and that, in spite of our "representative institutions," public offices under the *first Confederate* Government will *not* be the "gifts" of the people for "meritorious services," but rather the "gifts" of the Government itself for "services" rendered to the cause of Confederation, shall we be condemned for rejecting the scheme or doubting the purity and patriotism of its advocates? We would also here remark, before proceeding further with the argument, that although the editor of the *Examiner* is excessively chary about having *motives* attributed to him and his fellow-Confederates—he himself was the first—during the discussion last winter on the Quebec scheme, to attribute motives of "envy" and "malevolence" to all who opposed the scheme and exposed the inconsistency of its advocates, and if he now finds the tables turned on him, he may thank the wisdom of his own policy and tactics. The "dodge" may be "stale" to him, but he has attempted during the discussion of this great question, as well as on former occasions with more unequivocal success, "to bring *favor* upon a public question" by ascribing a man's hostility to it to mere selfish motives. We were not the first to impute motives, nor have we, during the whole progress of the question, sought a personal quarrel in order to divert public attention from the real point at issue; and as no base dread of a personal attack has ever yet deterred us from giving full expression to our views on all subjects of public interest, so neither shall it in the future. The exercise (*vide Examiner*, July 24,) of "forbearance," therefore, towards us, is a mere waste of sentimentality, whatever our opponents—whose long experience, has, perhaps, in their own opinion, given them the special privilege to insult and abuse everybody who differs from them—may think to the contrary

With the foregoing understanding, we shall, then, examine the question of Confederation as presented by the editor of the *Examiner*, and without introducing any *personality* further than what is absolutely necessary to meet his arguments. His remarks in defence of Confederation may be divided into three points, the first of which is, that a politician in the Maritime Provinces who favors the scheme, pursues a very "erratic course," and stands no earthly chance of receiving an office of emolument from the Confederate Government. Last winter, in the Canadian Parliament, the Hon. Mr. Cartier stated, in reply to a question put to him by a member of the House, that the first Confederate Parliament, and by consequence, the first Confederate Government, would be formed from the different Houses and Governments existing in the Provinces at the time the Union would take effect, thus throwing out a bait to have the question carried *without* an appeal, and therefore in the distribution of offices, those in all probability who had rendered themselves most obnoxious to the people would receive the highest reward. In Canada, the bait was quite successful, as the question was never submitted to the people, for if it had been, there is no earthly doubt but that it would be almost unanimously rejected in Lower Canada. In Nova Scotia it is well known that Dr. Tupper avowed his determination to carry the scheme through the Legislature without an appeal to the people, and he was only defeated in his design by the independence of the members. In New Brunswick, the Hon. Mr. Tilley was driven to the polls simply because a division in his cabinet forced him to do so. With these facts before us, it is rather late in the day to tell us that "public opinion" *was* to be consulted in the matter by the "plotters," or that those who advocated the scheme in opposition to the people stood no earthly chance of being rewarded. On this point we would invite the special attention of the reader to the following article from the St. John *Freeman*, which, we think, very conclusively substantiates our view:—

"The Quebec Scheme was called a Treaty by the Schemers. It frequently happens that treaties have secret articles; that only those articles which the framers suppose would be pleasing to the public, or unobjectionable, are published, and that what immediately concerns the high contracting parties, and what would excite universal odium if made known, is kept secret.

This was also said of the Quebec Scheme. It was asserted from the very first that there were secret articles; that the "high contracting" thirty-three had taken especial good care of themselves at the general expense; that it was not for nothing that the Delegates took so much pains to boast of their having extended the field for aspiring politicians; that by the secret articles they had amply provided for themselves; that some were to be Judges of the new Court of Appeal, others to be managers of a new national Bank, etc., etc., and that in one way or another all were guaranteed offices worth not less than $5,000 per annum each.

The delegates, honorable and patriotic men that they were, indignantly denied all this.

It was said that there were other secret articles so framed as to secure support where it was most needed. The sudden conversions to the scheme which surprised some, were thus accounted for by others who asserted that private bargains were made with several of the more considerable bodies in Canada to enable Brown and Cartier and Galt to coax or drag their followers into the advocacy or approval of the scheme.

This, too, was fiercely denied, but now it proves to be quite true, notwithstanding all those fierce denials. One set of secret articles has seen the light and none dare question their authenticity. Mr. Galt, on behalf of the schemers, and with their authority, bargained with the seven Protestant members of Lower Canada, that on condition of their supporting the scheme several privileges which were believed to be highly valued by the Protestant minority of that section should be secured to them. These stipulations were of such a character that it was not deemed safe to put them in the "Treaty" for fear of exciting alarm and opposition. They do not seem very objectionable, and to us it appears that the true reason for not putting them in the scheme—if they are thought necessary at all—must be that Mr. Galt wanted something to give away in the secret negotiations with his followers, some price to pay for their abandonment of principle, and his followers wanted also to be able to hint at the great secrets they possessed, and to assure their friends that what they did was for the real interest of Protestantism in Lower Canada.

M. Dorion by some means got possession of a copy of this set of secret articles. Who will obtain and publish copies of the other set of articles by means of which M. Cartier has been able to humbug another set of people and get them to write letters to the French of this Province entreating them to go for Confederation, as it was of the utmost importance to the Canadian French that the scheme should not miscarry, and of that by which Mr. Brown has been enabled to carry all his followers into the ministerial ranks and induce them to vote against nearly all the measures for which they have been clamoring for years.

The first chapter of the secret history of the Great Conspiracy has been published by M. Dorion. Who will publish the second?

If, therefore, the people are now to be consulted, we need not thank the plotters, but those who have thwarted them; and it would be well to remind the people that the advocates of Confederation—now that an election is inevitable—wish to remove the scheme, and their own association with it, from public view. This is rather a new "dodge."

It is refreshing to find the editor of the *Examiner* backing down from the narrow views which guided him last winter, when he declared that the hostility of this Island to Confederation was the result of "petulance" and "ignorance"—a hostility which, in his opinion, the British Government would do right not to notice, but force us at once into an obnoxious Union. He now admits that the Quebec scheme "is objectionable in some of its parts, *especially* to the *small* and poor colonies," nor is he sorry that it has been laid aside. The admission is well, and proves that the editor of the *Examiner* still retains a sense of justice and fair-play, which but for the promptings of ambition and the influence of a Canadian atmosphere, would lead him to adopt the more honest side in the discussion of a question of such momentous interest, and pause before he attempted to establish an American Ireland in the proposed Confederacy. The instituting a parallel between the proposed Confederation of a lot of scattered, partially inhabited, and undeveloped *provinces*, which are separated from each other by natural barriers for five months out of the twelve, and whose productions are exactly alike, with the United States, a compact, yet widely deversified, *independent country* of unlimited resources, and comprising within itself the temperate and the torrid zones, is either an attempt at deception or a very poor argument. Besides, it should be remembered, that if the neighboring Republic is the great and glorious country which he represents it to be, and which we admit it to be, he adduces one very strong argument in favor of the cry of annexation which is pretty loudly heard at times in Canada, for no poor colony need be afraid to throw in its fortunes with such a country as that.

A "ride on a rail" between Shediac and St. John has also furnished the editor of the *Examiner* with an argument in favor of Confederation and of the proposed Inter-Colonial railroad. Everybody admits the utility and advantages of railroads in certain countries, or sections of a country. They are the certain accompaniments of trade and civilisation, and require no political hot-beds to hasten their growth; but everybody *does not* admit that, if the Magdalen or the West India Islands required railroads, the inhabitants of this Island should be taxed equally with those of the places just named for their construction. This is just where we differ, and we think the case only requires to be stated to show the injustice of such a policy as the editor of the *Examiner* would inaugurate. But with regard to the Inter-Colonial railway, there are very grave doubts entertained both as to its practicability and utility by authorities which even the editor of the *Examiner* is bound to respect. Take the London *Times*, for example—which our contemporary used to quite approvingly last winter, and we venture to say that the views expressed with regard to that chimerical undertaking in the article we are about to quote, finds an echo in the breast of every rational thinking man, and more especially at the present time, when there is a fair prospect of "western extension" being accomplished, or, in other words, the junction of the American and New Brunswick lines of railway—a project which would most effectually kill the Inter-Colonial. As this article has already been extended to too great a length, we shall now come to a close by giving our readers the benefit of what the London *Times* says with regard to the Inter-Colonial railway. After some prefatory remarks, it goes on to say:

"The question is not only whether such a line is expedient in the abstract, but whether it is practicable at all, and whether the time is ripe for its execution. On both these subjects the very gravest doubt may reasonably be entertained. That it is no light undertaking is shown by the Report of Mr. Fleming to the Canadian Government, in which no less than fifteen alternative plans for executing this work are stated and considered without arriving at any conclusion. The line is full of the most appalling difficulties—difficulties, nevertheless, which a lavish expenditure may afford the means of surmounting. But some remain behind which may well deter the most sanguine projector. * * *

By whatever route the line is conducted it will be sparsely inhabited, and the main traffic that is looked for at present is in the not very lucrative article of lumber. The line also has this unfortunate peculiarity, that its traffic can be tapped very near its source at Halifax by a branch from the present Grand Trunk Railway from Portland to Quebec, which will actually give a shorter line from Halifax to Canada through American than the proposed line through British Territory. Such is, in a few words, the enterprise we are to adopt—a GIGANTIC EXAGGERATION in every respect of that STUPENDOUS FOLLY, the Grand Trunk Railway, by which we bought our experience of such lines so dear and apparently to so little purpose.

The time may undoubtedly come when it may be worth while to enter into a scheme of this kind for the benefit of a population that does not now exist, and of settlements which have yet to be formed. At present we fail to see any justification for such an undertaking. During the seven open months the line is not wanted for a communication with Europe; during the five close months it may possibly be wanted, but can never be relied on. The severity of Nature is at any time likely to close it; and of course the probability may be converted into a certainty by very little assistance from the hand of man. Nothing, indeed, would be more vain or presumptuous than to rely upon it as a means of keeping up the communication between the British Provinces and England the moment it became the interest of America to stop it. Of course in such a plan the greatest part of the expense must, in the first instance, fall upon Canada, and we have over and over again shown how unable Canada is to support the burden we propose to throw upon her. It is of little use talking of guarantees; for all practical purposes it would make but little difference if this country assumed the primary liability herself. Regarded either from a commercial, a political, or a strategic point of view, the plan possesses no one of the elements of success; and the most brilliant success, if it were achieved, would be of little or no advantage to us, who are, it would seem, destined to pay for it, whether it be achieved or not.

The truth is, that we have our choice of two courses of policy with regard to Canada—a warlike, and a pacific, a retrograde and a progressive policy. We may set ourselves to raise up a rival power to the United States, and, in order to defend that power from their attack, may plunge it into such inextricable financial difficulties as to deprive it of all attraction for the intending emigrant and even to drive out of it much of the population which has already chosen it as a home. We may look on our Colony as a military position to be defended, as a Roman *colonia* planted as a menace or a curb to a rival people which must be drilled or fortified, and kept open during the inclemencies of a Siberian winter, at whatever cost to the Mother Country, and with a prospect of success however small. Or we may relinquish the hateful and useless occupation of struggling against nature, and look at our colony more with reference to the future than to the present, more with regard to its geographical position and commercial interests than to the hopeless task of its military defence. Those who regard Canada from this point of view would rather expend the money of England in improving her communication with those rich lands of which she is the natural outlet, than in forcing a worthless passage for hopeless succors across barren and inhospitable deserts. It is her great opportunity, which, if well used, will do more to make her independent of all fear of invasion from America than ten times the fleets and armies of which we can dispose. The fortifications of Quebec and Montreal have, at any rate, this advantage—that they may for a while protect our troops, and possibly facilitate their embarkation. The Inter-Colonial railway can do nothing but mock them with the prospect of a communication with the sea, which is sure to fail them just at the moment when it becomes most imperiously necessary for their preservation.

The cost of the road is estimated at £9,000,000 stg.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION.

Now that we can boast of almost daily steam communication with the neighboring Provinces, and of weekly steam communication with the United States, whilst the navigation remains open, we ought to see that the internal communication of the country is as perfect and satisfactory as possible under existing circumstances. Localities situated along what are known as the main Post Roads of this Island, have a semi-weekly communication with Charlottetown; but there are other localities not so favorably situated, which are not possessed of even a weekly communication. We know many sections of the Island to communicate with which requires a longer time than with the principal towns of the neighboring Provinces, or even with many cities in the United States. Is this right, we ask, or is calculated to promote the interests of all classes in the Colony? There should, in our opinion, be no section of the Island, and certainly no settlement or village of importance, without direct postal communication with the capital at least twice in the week. There are some places, such as Souris, Georgetown, Summerside and Cascumpec, which ought to have a tri-weekly, if not a more frequent, communication; and to villages of such commercial and shipping interests, we think telegraphic communication ought also to be added. If a good system of postal communication, and also its equally important concomitant, the opening and maintaining of good roads, should necessitate a slight increase of taxation, the consideration ought not to retard such obvious public necessities. Indeed, we believe every reasonable man will concede that taxes levied for such a purpose would be well applied, and would be repaid thrice over in increased enterprise and business activity. A country may possess all the fabled wealth of Golconda, and be as highly favored as the Land of Canaan, yet if it be undeveloped and remain unopened to capital industry and intelligence, its wealth and resources are of no more avail than if their existence were never known. As charity is always said to begin at home, so progress, to be sure and permanent, must be founded on domestic economy; but the prosperity at which this Island has aimed, has always appeared to us to commence at the wrong end. This remark applies equally to educational, commercial and political matters, but it applies in an especial manner to the political and commercial. In the political, we need go no further back than the history of Confederation to find an illustration of this commencement at the wrong end, for we believe that even the most ardent advocate of the scheme will, if pressed, admit that the hostile tariffs, the various currencies, &c., which obtain in the Provinces, ought first to have been removed before any political union was attempted. In commerce, again, nothing can tend more to repress that development of resources and material wealth upon which commercial prosperity ought to be founded, than in the want of ample internal communication in a country, both by means of good roads and numerous Post Offices. We might dilate at length upon this and kindred subjects so as to extend this article to the dimensions of an essay; but we trust we have said enough to prompt our wise legislators, in whose hands the matter rests altogether, to effect some improvement at the next session of our Legislature in our postal and road systems, so that they can with some face present themselves to their constituents for re-election, and that both systems sadly want revision and improvement, few, we think, will attempt to deny.

Islanders abroad.—*Students of St. Dunstan's College.*—We have recently been favored with a glance at a pamphlet entitled *Solemnis Præmiorum Distributio*—"A Solemn Distribution of Prizes"—at the venerable college of Propaganda, Rome, and we were delighted to find the names of two of the students from St. Dunstan's College, as bearing off first class prizes at that world-renowned Institution. In Rhetoric, Master Donald James McDonald, of Pisquid, carried off the 1st Prize (Latin Oration), also the 2d Prize in Latin verse, and 1st Prize in Greek. Mr. Cornelius O'Brien, of New Glasgow, carried off the 2d Prize in Latin composition, and held a distinguished place in his other classes. This, in a country where the Latin can scarcely be considered a dead Language, and where competitors are to be found from every part of the world, speaks highly for the talent and diligence of these young men, as also for the Institution in which they received their previous training. We trust their future career will be in accordance with the promise of the present.

The St. Dunstan's Temperance Society commenced its Lecture Session for the ensuing year, on Monday night last, by giving a very agreeable entertainment, consisting of addresses, and vocal music—with organ accompaniment. The Hall was very well filled on the occasion. The regular monthly public meetings (1st Monday in each month) will be conducted on the same principle during the winter. The Glee Club in connection with the Society practise each week, under the management of the Rev. Mr. Trudelle and Mr. Henry Gaffeney, for this purpose. Admission to these entertainments will be free, unless the funds of the Society should require a Benefit Night. There will be a meeting of the members on Monday night next for the transaction of business.

Friday's *Islander*, after threatening vengeance, by means of the troops, on those who recently obstructed the Deputy Sheriff whilst in the discharge of his duty, intimates that the Colony will have to pay the soldiers as long as they are kept here, which threatens to be a long spell. This is what we said all along, and it will be found in the end that we were correct in our surmise, as also in reference to the primary object of bringing the soldiers here, and giving the Colony a bad reputation.

☞ It is a fact worth noting that whilst the Directors of the Union Bank imported the locks for their safe from England, the Directors of the Summerside Bank employed Mr. Augustus Hermans, of this City, to manufacture theirs. This task he satisfactorily accomplished, and the Summerside Directors have the satisfaction of knowing that they possess a better article for less money than the Union Bank Directors. Mr. Herman is a most skilful and thorough mechanic, and his locks will defy the ingenuity of the burglar.

☞ It is said that certain specials among the soldiers seek to entrap unwary persons by pretending to be anxious to desert and seeking assistance for that object. The man McLeod is said to have been entrapped in this way, and, as a consequence, he now lies in jail. We know that this game was successfully practised for a time in Halifax last year, until people acquired wisdom through bitter experience. We would therefore caution all persons to beware how they act or associate with soldiers.

☞ One of the recently captured deserters, named Nash, received 25 lashes at Spring Park yesterday morning, and was afterwards committed to the County Jail.

☞ Major Gen. Doyle was sworn in administrator of the government of Nova Scotia, on the 29th ult, immediately after the departure for England, of Governor McDonnell.

☞ We are compelled to omit some local matters of importance this week.

We understand that Mr. I. C. Hall's wareroom was burglariously entered a few nights ago, but with what result we do not know.

News by Telegraph.

Liverpool, N. S. Sept. 28.

Another large fire here last night—commenced in Cobb's barn. Ten buildings destroyed; several others damaged.

New York, Sept. 29.

Late advices from San Francisco state that the French had taken possession of Acapulco, landing 1500 men. Alvarez had previously retired with 500 badly equipped, but enthusiastic men, the greater part of the Mexican population leaving with him. Gold 144