

# THE BULLFROG.

Nec snuit nut ponit aureas,  
Arbitrio popularis auræ.

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## ENGLISH VIEWS ON FEDERATION. D

The more attentively we peruse the comments of the English press upon the contemplated Union of B. N. America, the more convinced are we that the English people know little or nothing about our provincial peculiarities. In another column will be found an article from the *Saturday Review* upon Mr. CARSWELL'S despatch to Lord MONCK, which may be taken as a fair sample of English opinion upon the scheme drawn up at Quebec. The language of the *Saturday Review* is just such as we might expect from Englishmen far removed from those whose immediate interests are at stake. It would be unreasonable to suppose that even English statesmen are well informed as to the various interests involved in the contemplated change. No amount of despatches from the several provinces can make Englishmen comprehend the fact that, having granted us Responsible Governments they have virtually trained us in the belief that we are so many separate kingdoms, accustomed to legislate for ourselves, independent one of another. When an Englishman alludes to the American colonies, he has not the faintest conception that they can have any separate interests; he views them merely as a whole, in much the same manner as he views Hindostan. It is only those who have resided in India that speak of the various Presidencies;—to the ordinary Briton, Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, are merely the three largest towns of one vast Eastern possession—India. So, in like manner, do the majority of Englishmen regard Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland, as mere integral parts of one vast Western possession, known as Canada. They read in the *Times*, that on such and such a day despatches were sent to, or received from, the Governors of Nova Scotia, or Newfoundland; they also read, that on the same day despatches were sent to, or received from, the Governors of Madras or Bombay; but beyond this they know nothing of our individuality as separate Provinces,—they have never troubled their heads concerning the effect of Responsible Government upon the minds of colonists. It is now too late to reflect upon the consequences of Responsible Government as affecting our position with regard to Imperial policy, but it is quite clear that in the minds of Englishmen our nationality is a thing unrecognized. Nor is it at all likely that our nationality as Nova Scotians will ever become apparent to those living on the other side of the Atlantic. We cannot proclaim it without causing a smile, inasmuch as a narration of party squabbles among a population of 300,000, must seem quite unintelligible to ordinary Englishmen. Do all we can to evince our ability for self-government, we can never hope to be regarded save as an item of England's Western possessions. We have among us two or three men whose abilities and oratorical powers would ensure success in the House of Commons,—but were we to put forward these men as evidences of our fitness for self-government, what would be the result? We should merely be told—that it was a pity a young country capable of producing such men, should devote so much energy to politics rather than to developing its innate resources. We should be told that the \$30,000, annually distributed among the members and officers of the two Houses, might be expended in a manner far more profitable. Such being the sentiments of the Mother Country, it would be strange indeed were the Federation Scheme not approved by the English press. The following passage explains the natural common sense views of Englishmen upon the subject:—"It will be something to have the chances of dispute limited to one body instead of several, and it will be a much greater gain to have to deal with a nation conscious of its responsibilities and ashamed to neglect them. Without making any idle attempt to forecast the remote future, one may see in the great enterprise of the statesmen of

British North America the elements of union rather than "of disruption." Now, were we reasoning as Englishmen, we should at once adopt this broad view of the case, inasmuch as we might not unreasonably suppose that the statesmen of B. N. America planned "the great enterprise" in entire accordance with the wishes of the people for whom they legislate. Men bred in an atmosphere of home politics can form no just idea of the hardihood of colonial politicians, neither can they appreciate the fact that the several Provinces of B. N. America are somewhat more widely distinct one from another than are two adjoining counties of the parent land. While talking of these Provinces as an "embryo nation," Englishmen lose sight of the fact that each Province has a nationality of its own, and that the area of B. N. America is somewhat larger than that of Europe. As regards population, this "embryo nation" is, however, about on a par with Bavaria, and, viewed in the abstract, it seems preposterous that to rightly govern a population only a little larger than that of London, are necessary five or six representatives of Royalty and twice as many Senate Houses. It is beyond all doubt advantageous that England should maintain relations with a colonial nation rather than with five or six provinces, but it does not necessarily follow that on this account only we should enter a Union for which during many years we have studiously sought to disqualify ourselves. Each successive year that has elapsed since we obtained Responsible Government has served to confirm our love of political independence, rather than to bias our minds in favour of political subservency. The same remark holds good concerning Canada, and Canadian statesmen have too long enjoyed the sweets of political power to readily relinquish them. Had these Provinces never known separate and controlled political power they would be fitter for a Union than they are at present. In granting us Responsible Government, England gave us what she considered a mere ornamental appendage, and from the tone of the *Saturday Review* press it is clear that the gift we have so dearly cherished is still regarded in the same light. But it is not easy for the people of this Province regard as merely ornamental the form of Government so long and hotly contended for. The *Saturday Review* very naturally deprecates the idea of the Union Scheme being made a party question in the House of Commons, and then says:—"Canada and Nova Scotia are not to have their destinies wrangled over in detail, as those of Hindoos and Parsees were during the debates on the Bill which vested the Government of India in the Crown. The part of England in this transaction is, first, to ascertain how far the broad scheme is compatible with Imperial policy, &c." It must, we fancy, be apparent, that the *Saturday Review* accepts the Quebec Scheme as it appears on paper, and is consequently impressed with the idea that we can really act up to our promises. Such being the case, we can readily excuse the flattery which places us on a level with India, albeit we are unpleasantly reminded of the fact, that a dozen Bombay Parsees could buy up the whole of Nova Scotia. The *Saturday Review* writers would doubtless be astonished to learn that the high sounding item—"Military and Naval Service, and Defence,"—meant merely an additional outlay of \$500,000, the whole of which sum is to be expended in strengthening a militia force. As regards "Imperial policy," it will of course be directed towards making the N. American colonies as independent of the Mother Country as possible. "The example of the United States has impressed Canadians, no less than Englishmen, with the utter futility of any Federation which leaves a debatable ground for conflict between the rights of the Central Government and those of the component States. In case of difference, one must be supreme, and all the