

would rise up as one man against aggression, we have not the smallest doubt; but to be efficient in case of war, necessitates training in time of peace, and once more we ask—where are we to recruit for our naval defence? It is one thing to train a militia force, but it is another thing altogether to train a naval force. Many men that cheerfully sacrifice a portion of their time to learn "soldiering," would rebel against being placed on board a gun-boat without ample remuneration. Even in England, where ordinary wages are scarce a third what they are in these Provinces, considerable difficulty is experienced in manning the Navy,—how then are we to man our Lake gun-boats, &c. and what will be the probable cost of so doing? These are questions which have never yet been even touched upon by the advocates of Federation. Where shall we seek for information upon the all important item, "military and naval service and defence"? Will the *Morning Chronicle* enlighten us upon this subject? The *Bullfrog* writers (whom the *Chronicle* is pleased to term "whipper-snappers") have the welfare and happiness of the people of these Provinces as much at heart as the *Chronicle* writers, and in the name of fair play we should like to see the monetary side of the defence question as temperately discussed as the other portions of the scheme. That England will endeavour to make Canada increase her yearly vote, is more than probable; that, in case of Canada refusing to do so, this great question will end in separation (a word we almost blush to write) is not altogether improbable. We do not mean to imply that England wants to throw Canada over; but unless B. America acts up to her professions as set down in the Federation Scheme, the Mother Country will be able to withdraw her protecting influence with a good grace. The basis of the proposed Federation is strength by means of unity, and unless we are willing to evince our united strength by acting up to terms framed by ourselves, England may justly say—"Since even the sanctioning of this great scheme leaves you only where you were as regards defence, your case is indeed hopeless—good bye, and God be with you." The mere fact of calling ourselves a great people, should stimulate us to bold, honest, searching inquiry as to the financial aspect of every item of the scheme before us. Who will calmly and deliberately count the cost of self defence? The item either means nothing, in which case English statesmen will (when the matter comes before the British Parliament) be justly incensed against us for attempting to mislead them;—or it means an expenditure, the taxation to support which will effectually check immigration and kill the prospects of so young a country. This is not a question to be systematically avoided, as it has hitherto been. The general impression among the mercantile community is that the defence items of this great Federation Scheme are a sham, and nothing more. Should such be the case, we are of opinion that the English Ministry will detect it, from the answers which must be given before a Parliamentary Committee,—and then—"Farewell, a long farewell to all our greatness."

#### WANTED—AN INDEPENDENT PARTY.

We are glad to find that throughout the whole country—from Amherst to Canso—from Yarmouth to Inverness—a great cry is being raised, if not against the Federation Scheme itself, against the manner in which it has been placed before the public. The words uttered, rather unseasonably perhaps, by Mr. MILLER amidst the great turmoil in the Temperance Hall "That Halifax is not Nova Scotia" obtain every day a greater significance. The 280,000 people who live beyond

the reach of delegatic oratory are awakening to a true sense of their position. They know the effect which flowery rhetoric can produce, they know that the leaders of both parties owe their position, past and present, in a great measure to the glibness of their speech, and they feel the danger of a coalition which unites on the same stage the oratorical power of both government and opposition. That there is a large party in the country with these opinions is proved by the tone of the country press, by the language of country members, and by the great desire evinced by the delegates themselves to address country audiences all over the Province, whether such be composed of their own constituents or not. When indeed, we consider the advantageous position occupied by the supporters of Federation, and the power wielded by the coalition, it is almost surprising that those opposed to the scheme should have made the headway that they have against it. This, though no argument against Federation, is a very strong one against the manner in which it has been laid before the people by the delegates. Notwithstanding the support of nearly the whole city press, notwithstanding the moral weight of a coalition between the two provincial parties, and notwithstanding the support of the British press and the Colonial Secretary, the cloud of opposition, which a few weeks ago was but as a man's hand, now spreads far and wide over the Province of Nova Scotia. The extent of this feeling is the more remarkable, since, until last week, no man of any weight had come before the public to expose the deficiencies of the Federation Scheme. In this respect we are far less fortunate than either New Brunswick, Canada, or Prince Edward Island. In all these Provinces opposition has been led by eminent politicians, by men who could rally round them a large number of supporters. In this Province how differently are we situated! We have a large party opposed to Federation and a still larger party opposed to the manner in which it is being forced upon the country. We all know that this party exists; but we cannot point out its leading men. We all feel that it ought to act, but except by the country press no action is taken. We allow Dr. TUPPER and his fellow delegates to "star it" unopposed in the various counties, working upon a rustic audience with a claptrap highly refreshing to the speaker after the heavy sophistical business of the city meetings. The two leading journals still pour forth to the remotest ends of the Province the desires of the delegates, and there is none to contradict them. On weaker minds Dr. TUPPER's famous saying that "he would force the measure if necessary through the *Houses*" has produced a slight despondency. All these things, however, when combined, must awaken those opposed to Federation to the precarious position in which they stand. It must show them with what manner of men they have to deal. It must show them that without a great effort on their part their voices will never be heard, and this conviction once adopted should stimulate all deserving the name of freemen to fresh exertions. In this city several gentlemen have raised with success the standard of opposition; but even in Halifax, the first attempt to show cause against Federation was frustrated by the interference of the delegates. The third meeting, however, proved that honest men, desirous of expressing their opinions upon a grave subject, are not to be browbeaten and discomfited by an overbearing Provincial Secretary and his satellites. The good seed then sown must not be allowed to decay. The time has arrived when, throughout the length and breadth of the land, those opposed to Federation must make their opinions public; when from every county, and every town, petitions through their respective members must be pressed upon the Lieut. Governor, urging that the matter be at once referred to the people; to the people who alone have the power of changing their own Constitution. The present members, having been returned