

somewhat, but it would be ruinous to a great many of our factories. In fact we would almost at once take the same position as the Western States, and become metaphorically hewers of wood and drawers of water for the manufacturers of the Eastern States.

It is argued by some that if Canada were joined to the States, that our carrying trade would be vastly increased, and that instead of the produce of the Western States finding its way to the seaboard by the Erie Canal and New York, it would go via Montreal and the St. Lawrence; but this, we think, is hardly a sound argument, for if the St. Lawrence route is shorter and cheaper than any American route, the grain for European markets (unless embarrassed by the stupidity of our legislators) will as surely find its way thither as the waters which draining the North-Western States find thus their natural outlet to the ocean. If the St. Lawrence is not the natural highway of commerce, union with the United States would not make it so.

Another reason against this change is, that such cities as Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and London, that have an extensive wholesale trade, would very soon find their occupation gone, for their business would soon be absorbed by New York and Boston, and in a very short time they would be in a position to receive Macaulay's moralizing New Zealander in a becoming manner.

The last, and probably one of the most powerful reasons is, that the sentiment of the people is strongly opposed to such a change. Canadians as a rule are intensely loyal to the British Crown, and it will take a great deal of weighty argument and solid advantage to make them change their allegiance from the glorious old flag that is emblematic of a historic past, for the newer and more gaudy bunting of an experimental republic.

The question of Federal Union is no new idea, but has been discussed for a number of years, and although some of the best minds of the age have given it their attention, no feasible plan has yet been arrived at. Indeed the more it is discussed the further it seems to be from a conclusion. Leaving aside the much discussed questions of unequal parliamentary representation and foreign wars in which we could have only an indirect interest, we look at it entirely from a commercial standpoint. The great want of England to-day is a market for her manufactures, and in order to benefit

her we would have to discontinue manufacturing almost entirely and promote only the production of raw material. In other words we should have to lay ourselves out to provide England with food and be willing to take her manufactured goods in exchange. If Canada was merely an agricultural country, it would be a very simple matter to adjust the tariff of England so as to bind this colony, and perhaps all the others, much closer than they are at present, but our manufacturing interests have become so large that they have now to be considered, and they will be no small factors in determining our future. Commerce is selfish, and every country like every individual manufacturer or merchant, has to look out for itself and see that it does not fall behind in the race for supremacy. This being the case, our manufacturing population, although personally loyal to the Crown, cannot and will not stand quietly by and see their rights bartered away for the benefit of the Mother Country.

To our mind everything points in the direction of ultimate independence, but an independence sanctioned by the Mother Country, and favourable to a closer alliance than we have at present. This, however, is a thing of the future, and will come soon enough without our seeking to force it by premature discussion. The duty of the present is to act loyally to the Crown and faithfully to ourselves; to lay the foundations of our national character broad and deep so that come what may, the question of our future shall be discussed and decided not by an illiterate and unthinking mob, but solely upon its merits by an educated and self-reliant people.

If ever the time shall come when we have to sever our connection with England, we think it will be accomplished by mutual consent, and a desire on the part of each to further the other's interests as well as their own, and the demagogue who would incite in this Colony feelings of hostility towards the Mother-land should be scouted by his countrymen as disloyal not only to England, but to Canada as well.

We trust that whatever our future may bring, it may not be antagonistic to England, but that by wise legislation and sympathetic action we shall be bound closer together, and that while we may be rivals in manufactures and commerce, our country shall always afford a safe and hospitable home to the surplus millions of the old land who may within our borders

find not only contentment and plenty, but a kindred feeling denied them elsewhere on this Continent.

Business Notes and Comments.

MESSRS. George Fleming & Son, of St. John, N.B., have obtained the contract for eleven locomotives for the Intercolonial Railway.

DURING 1879 the total losses by fire in the city of Toronto, amounted to \$194,328, the property affected being insured for \$451,525.

PROF. CROFT has lately tested a sample of ore found east of Gull Lake, which gives 37 per cent of iron. Some silver from the same locality has been sent to Prof. Croft to be tested.

THREE-AND-A-HALF millions of dollars were paid at the New York Customs House last week for duties on imported goods—the largest receipts in a single week in eight years.

IT is estimated that the cut of square timber in the Ottawa district this year, will not exceed one and a quarter million feet, against nearly three million of feet for the previous year.

THE Customs report for 1879 shows the value of imports of Canadian goods into Manitoba to have been, in round numbers \$2,000,000, being half a million greater than the Canadian imports in 1878.

"EFFORT, gentlemen," said Mr Gladstone in his address to the enthusiastic students at Glasgow, "honest, manful, humble effort, succeeds by its reflection action, especially in youth, better than success."

COL. Robbins, superintendent of the Baldwin Mines, has about completed the arrangements for the shipment, via Rideau Canal, of 25,000 tons of iron ore to Kingston, at which point it will be loaded in schooners for Cleveland.

"A TRUE American," says a trans-Atlantic contemporary, "is too proud to beg and too honest to steal; he gets trusted," and then "busted." It is evident that the writer of the above is not conversant with American politics.

THE Hamilton Tool Company, of Hamilton, has been attached by Messrs. Burrows, Stewart & Milne of that city. The amount of the liabilities is not yet known. The Company has been unsatisfactory in payments for some time.

MESSRS. Gilbert, founders, of Montreal, have signed a contract with the Government for \$50,000 worth of heavy guns for Canadian defences. The same firm offers to take up the rocks in the Galops Rapids, and is looking after the contract.

MESSRS. Babb & McIntyre, Mitchell, dissolved in June last. Mr. Thomas Babb, an old and well-known citizen, who got an extension, continued the business. Having fallen behind in his payments, he has been served with a writ in insolvency.

CANADIAN Pig Iron is now being bought by the Americans. A considerable quantity of Three Rivers iron has lately been sent to the States, including 1,000 tons sold by the estate of the late G. B. Hall from the Radnor mines at \$25 per ton, which is cheap, as prices are now going.

THE manufacturers of axes in Belleville, St. Catharines, Galt and Dundas, met in Toronto last month, to arrive at a basis of prices for next season's business, and there is every likelihood of an advance: prices must be higher to enable any profit to be made on their production.

SOME small towns seem to be infatuated with the idea that if they could establish a manufactory of some kind in their midst, they would go on prospering and to prosper. The latest is that the Kindred Town Council are considering the propriety of giving a bonus to the manufacturers of a steel horse collar.

THE new City Council of Toronto comprises 7 lawyers, 4 merchants, 2 ex-contractors, 1 hide dealer, 1 soap manufacturer, 1 marble cutter, 1