

eloquence, and nothing more, which gives weight to the opinions of our Delegates, they have hitherto either dissented entirely from the Confederation Scheme or treated it with a prudent reserve. The fact however remains. There is no journal with a large provincial circulation hostile to confederation. The people of the country therefore can see but one side of the question. This should not be. Three times a week, as the *Chronicle* and *Colonist* are cast abroad over the land, united on this great measure, disunited on all others, opinions opposed to Federation should be laid before our country population. The *Citizen* has hitherto alone of the tri-weeklies made any head against Confederation.

We trust that an increased country circulation on the part of our contemporary, aided by the concentrated efforts of journals published without the city, may counteract the extraordinary coalition of our two leading journals, upon a question all importa to the people of this Province.

#### MEMOIR OF SIR BRENTON HALLIBURTON.

BY REV. G. W. HILL, M.A. DOWES & SONS.

"The author does not wish to disarm criticism by apologies, based on want of time and press of other duties, knowing that however true, they are rarely believed." Those privileges to claim intimacy with Mr. Hill are fully alive to the fact that his leisure hours are few indeed, and the public has, on this account, the more reason to thank that gentleman for the result of his labours in the memoir before us. Mr. Hill's style of writing is clear and simple, and his publishers have executed their task with neatness and precision. The subject of the memoir, Sir Brenton Halliburton, was born on the 3rd of Dec. 1775, at Newport, Rhode Island, at which place he remained until the spring of 1783, when he accompanied his mother to Halifax. As a child, he seems to have combined rare sagacity with a keen power of observation. At the age of twelve, he was placed at a school in Enfield, where he remained under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Shaw for four years. Returning to Halifax in 1791, we find him studying the Law, until commissioned two years later in the Nova Scotia Provincials, with which corps he served until 1795, when he exchanged into the 7th Fusiliers, then commanded by H. R. H. Prince Edward. During a severe gale, rendered memorable by the loss of "La Tribune," young Halliburton seems to have exhibited both courage and judgment, and there can be little doubt that, had he remained in the army he would have risen as rapidly in the military service as he subsequently rose in the legal profession. Could he possibly have foreseen the stirring events destined to convulse Europe and raise Wellington to the highest pinnacle of fame, we have little doubt that his choice would have led him to seek a more brilliant, though not more honorable renown, than that which now attaches to his memory. On the 12th July, 1803, Capt. Halliburton was called to the Bar, and while practising in the legal profession with average success, found time to interest himself warmly in the affairs of Windsor College, an institution then in its infancy. In 1807, he was sworn in as Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court (at the early age of 32 years), and despite the lax state of morals then prevalent in Halifax, maintained his office with unsullied reputation and conspicuous innocence of life. His letters to the *Recorder*, following the crisis of 1812, are not, even now, devoid of interest, albeit they exhibit a literary inequality most strongly marked. The passages quoted by Mr. Hill, from a pamphlet treating of the value of these colonies to England, are worthy of reproduction, as illustrating the feelings with which the colonists once regarded the neighbouring States. "It must be admitted," writes Mr. Halliburton, "that the facility of

"acquiring property is greater in the United States than in these colonies; and that a wider field is opened there for commercial enterprise. Should this continue to be the case, it cannot be doubted that the interest of the colonists will lead them ultimately to prefer a connexion with a country which will permit them to participate in those benefits, rather than to continue subject to one which withhold them from such privileges." This argument is undeniable, and still holds good regarding immigration, although our sentiments towards the States have been materially changed. Judge Halliburton seems to have been a thorough hard worker at the Council board, but he, nevertheless, found time to devote a large portion of his time to philanthropic measures. "Of the Poor Man's Friend Society—an institution which circumstances seemed loudly to call for—the Judge was an active member. At the public meetings for the furtherance of its objects, his voice was seldom unheard. Unhappily this last public movement seems to have been early blasted by the introduction of politics. The newspapers were filled with correspondence, breathing strongly of bitterness and insinuating unworthy motives." That this unworthy spirit still characterizes a portion of the Halifax press, must be apparent to all who read the Saturday correspondence of a tri-weekly paper, regarding the Industrial School. However, the influential newspapers have, happily adopted a wise course.

We cannot altogether agree with Judge Halliburton, in his remarks concerning the commercial relations of these colonies with the mother-country. The policy of the *Edinburgh Review* has not changed since Judge Halliburton condemned its tone, and we incline to the belief that the views entertained by the *Review* were, and are correct. Colonists will always buy at the cheapest market, and their temper will not readily allow pique to affect their trade. Were British America as rich and as powerful as the States, the Judge's arguments might possibly hold good, but, as matters stand at present, we must dismiss them as *non proven*. In 1833, Mr. Halliburton was appointed Chief Justice, and his appointment seems to have satisfied all classes—indeed, up to the day of his death (16th July, 1850) he retained the good-will of all around him. Mr. Hill, thus, gracefully describes the closing scene:—"Day by day he grew more feeble; the light flickered, the lamp was burning out; and as he realised it, he was humble as a little child; he bowed with meekness before his Father's will, and as he neared his journey's end, although he grew not impatient of the delay, he longed to reach his Father's House. The hour came at last. On the 16th July the old pilgrim finished his course and laid down his staff; the soldier had fought the fight and received the crown; the servant had done his work and lay down to rest." Thus closed the career of one whose memory will live long in the minds of those who appreciate moral uprightness in connection with vigorous intellect, and public service in connection with private worth. While freely admitting that Mr. Hill's "Memoir" reflects credit upon himself, and sets forth the many excellent qualities of Sir Brenton Halliburton, we are of opinion that the work before us might have been more graphically rendered. We are fully informed as to Sir Brenton's public life, but, from the volume before us, we know nothing of him as a man. He is represented as a man of wit, anecdote, and humour, but we have not a single illustration of his powers in these respects. It is indeed true, Mr. Hill apologises for the omission, but we cannot accept his apologies in full. We should like to see the late Sir Brenton depicted as a man, before we analyse his character as a public servant. A public character so well known, must have left behind him many individual characteristics, whereof his biographer should reap orthodox capital capital.

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