

gates, render them nervous and prevent a free expression of their opinions. Our course is clear. We will put forth speakers on our side so silly that confidence will be restored to our opponents. They will see that they are fairly matched with some of the speakers in favor of Federation. The results (if we are right in our surmises) of this kind thoughtfulness on the part of the delegates were the speeches of Messrs. WIER and LYNCH. Reader we shall have a laugh at last. Better than pantomimes or plays, better than balls or ballet dances, were the worded visions of these two dreamers. Here is a specimen of Mr. WIER's speech.

"Suppose that it had been possible thirty years ago to have swung that noble river (the St. Lawrence) into Bedford Basin, and the connection had been accomplished, what he would ask would have been the extent, wealth, and commercial importance of Halifax at the present time? He would leave it for his audience to imagine." This was perhaps the best thing Mr. Wier could do under the circumstances, but the reflection arises. If the St. Lawrence got into Bedford Basin how would it get out? or if it did make any attempt to do so where would Halifax with its extent, wealth, and commerce be? In all probability under the river. No—on the whole we are very glad that the connection was not made. Let us hear what Mr. LYNCH can say to afford us amusement. Arguing in favor of Federation and having had the good fortune at some former period of his existence to visit Canada, Mr. LYNCH said:

"Her rivers were not like any others (? do they run up hill) Her lakes were great oceans on which, at the present time, there are 7,000,000 tons of shipping. * * In extent, the country was seven times as large as England, and British America one ninth of the world. Her live stock was worth \$9,000,000. Her forests abounded with timber (so do ours) to an inexhaustible extent, and scarcely anything excited so much attention as the pile of that timber, standing near our column of coal, at the great exhibition of 1861. All this wealth would be ours, * * * How were we to get this? By the proposed Union."

There reader is a glorious prospect!—Don't laugh if you can possibly avoid doing so—you are to have all these lakes, forests, peculiar rivers, and eighty nine millions worth of livestock all to yourself if you do as Mr. LYNCH bids. But more, you are also to become, as that gentleman said in another part of his speech, the great manufacturing people not only for America but for Asia! What a sublime contemplation! Well, well it is great fun to hear gentlemen talking nonsense—kind twaddle that can not possibly do any harm and may please the speakers. Do not be angry dear reader with Messrs. WIER and LYNCH. It is not for you to say that their speeches were not concealed efforts at fun—efforts perhaps made entirely for your own amusement. Come away, Mr. LYNCH has sat down. Let the other speakers thunder forth sense. We have had enough laughter for to-night so again I say come away, "quietly—don't disturb the audience."—Hi—Cab!

NEW HOTEL FOR HALIFAX.

It is well sometimes to descend from the ideal for the real and to alternate the sublime with the practical. A poet is no less a poet for incidentally appearing in a clean shirt; nor does a patriot, while moulding and manipulating the destinies of his country, transgress any constitutional principle by looking occasionally to his own *menage*, "going into supply," and "calling the house to order," at home. In like manner, cities with colossal conceptions and aspirations, such as Halifax has recently been tempted to indulge in, may wisely study their own internal wants, condescend to details, and make provision for those every-day requisites which are essential to the respectability and welfare of any place, whether symbolized by fancy as the commanding vestibule of a Western World, or limited by fact to the

status of a modest but improving metropolis of a "Lower Province."

To begin with Hotels—what we ask, has Halifax to boast of? What can she offer to ordinary visitors, much less to such expectant pilgrims as allured by the glowing pictures of this "Grand Atlantic Wharf," would naturally expect to find here a city replete with hotels of magnificent proportions and pretensions? The former class of persons are already doomed to discomfort, and the latter, if they arrive very soon, will simply consider that they have been hoaxed. It cannot be concealed that the accommodation now afforded is generally of a very "shady" character, and that a visitor has for his Scylla (and his "siller" too) the manifold tortures of slatternly, badly built, badly arranged, and badly managed hotels; and for his Charybdis, the stingy, dingy, despotism of antiquated boarding houses; and whichever choice he makes—with one or two solitary exceptions—his stay in Halifax is thus rendered as uncomfortable and consequently as short as possible. Nor is it external visitors alone, but our own community also, who have grievous cause of complaint; for the modern hotel has come to subserve, in every large civilized place but this, *many collateral social requirements*, and has developed itself into a leading "*domestic institution*."

Conscious of this great public desideratum, and encouraged by the financial success of the Club speculation, several active citizens, we understand, have set on foot an enterprise for the erection of a new hotel. The capital of the company (already half subscribed) will be \$80,000, which should suffice to give us in Halifax an establishment inferior in appearance, commodiousness, and style, to none in British North America, and, *with good management*, superior to all. It is intended that the hotel should have an Anglo-American character, combining the promiscuous table d'hôte accommodation of the States with the privacy (for those who prefer it) of the old English system, for which a considerable number of special apartments will be required. If to these be added bath rooms, reading, writing, and billiard rooms, and all the other conveniences which modern travel and taste have rendered indispensable, there can be no fear of the popularity and profit of the undertaking; for even if all the present establishments were unexceptionable in style and comfort, *there is so large an increase in the application for hotel accommodation* that the mere excess of demand over supply would almost suffice to support it. It is, indeed, this very excess of demand that has prevented an improvement in our hotel system corresponding with that of other communities where competition has been more active. One new and improved establishment here would have a salutary effect upon the others, and if *still further* competition be required for this purpose, we hope it may be forthcoming, until the time arrives when we can welcome with a confident hospitality guests of every class to our city, and when hotels with a good *cuisine*, potable wines, airy well furnished apartments, clean linen, bright plate, and inodorous waiters, may become the rule, instead of, as at present, the exception. It is almost superfluous to wish success to this new undertaking, for, with ordinary good management, success is *certain*, and those who embark in it will effect at once a great public improvement and a good private investment.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

The Second of January was a merry day in Halifax. Everybody went to see everybody, and everybody was glad to see everybody else. "A happy New Year,—many of them," "wont you have a glass of liqueur or sherry?"—"you must be quite tired by calling on so many people" were the most used phrases of the stay-at-home or female portion of