

yond the limits of any Province." Now, we ask our readers to pause, and take in the meaning of these clauses. "Military and naval service and defence!" What is meant by "naval service?" Have the people of Halifax, protected as they are by such vessels as the Duncan and the Galatea, ever given a thought as to the cost of building and manning such ships? We honestly believe that all the maritime provinces together could scarce afford the taxation which would follow upon the construction and equipment of one line of battle ship! If England were to make us a present of the Duncan, guns, machinery, &c. included—we could not spare enough men to keep her fit for service. Yet, forsooth, we are to be dragged into a Federation which proposes "naval defence" as a mere item in an expenditure the taxation consequent upon which Canada graciously allows us to share! Really, when perusing the details of the Federation Scheme, we are tempted to put before our legislators the admirable resolution of Alderman MUMFORD,—“Quit nonsense and proceed to business.” Such language may perhaps seem flippant, but with the Federation Scheme before us it is hard to be serious. And we say this to a pretty large circle of readers, a circle not indeed so large as that to which the *Chronicle* and the *Colonist* have access, but to a circle of intelligent men having a large stake at issue in the proposals of Federation. Let us note the relative positions of Canada and Nova Scotia, and then think twice ere we accept the propositions before us. The political position of Canada has been one long, dreary, and hopeless muddle. More than once her people have risen in revolt. She has a large and increasing debt. The conflict between the Upper and Lower Canadians is a conflict of race, of religion, and of tradition. Canadian politicians have long had to contend with almost insurmountable difficulties. They know full well the delicate position wherein Canada stands with relation to the mother country, and weighing together all their difficulties, past and present, financial and political,—they think the time has arrived when something must be done to regenerate their Country. They are wise men in their generation, and they seek to draw us into an alliance which may prove our ruin. They have schemes, as expensive as they are lofty, and we are to be taxed that such schemes may be carried out. This is, to our thinking, the secret of the proposed Federation. We regard a moderate taxation with favorable eyes, but we are by no means anxious to be taxed beyond our means. Should any one say,—the proposed Federation does not of necessity imply taxation,—we refer to the published details of the scheme, and reply—*such a scheme cannot possibly be carried out without enormous taxation.* To support this assertion, we have only to refer to such passages as these—“the following works and property of each province shall belong to the General Government—to wit”—for example—“Property transferred by the Imperial Government and known as ordnance property, Armories, drill sheds, military clothing, and munitions of war.” Now this passage is worthy of the gravest attention. “Munitions of war,” of course refer to the contents of military Stores at present protected by British troops.

Supposing, the Imperial Government willing to transfer to the Ottawa Government the costly contents of the Imperial stores at Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, &c. there is not the smallest chance that the “munitions of war” stored in Halifax will ever be so transferred. If the Ottawa Government feel disposed to take sole charge of such articles as Armstrong guns, shells, &c. it is but fair to suppose that what had formerly been Imperial military stores will, under the new regime, be kept up to the Imperial standard of excellence. The transfer of Armories and munitions of war, necessarily im-

plies the withdrawal of British troops, as it is not probable that the Home Government would trust the equipment of any portion of its troops to any but those in its own pay. We must, therefore, perforce assume, that the Ottawa Government undertakes to garrison all B. N. America. But England will garrison Halifax, and Nova Scotia, being under the protection of British troops and British ships, must nevertheless be taxed for the defence of Canada, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland. And for this privilege we are to have the Intercolonial Railway, and Free Trade with the rest of B. N. America. We are, we trust, fully alive to the advantages of railway communication and free trade, but we think the terms proposed somewhat high. Let those who so calmly jot down on paper little items regarding, “naval defence,” “armories,” and “munitions of war,” pay a visit to the military stores of this city, and as calmly calculate the probable cost of replacing such stores all over B. N. America; and then let these gentlemen say—whether the blessings of free trade, and the equalization of currencies, will, in their own individual cases, be likely to compensate for the taxation in store for them. We cannot all be leading politicians, with a prospect of increased salaries, and a wider field for the exercise of our especial gifts, oratorical or otherwise. But we can all be taxed, and taxed heavily, if in addition to the various railways in contemplation we have to subscribe towards the defence of all the rest of British America. It is one thing to equalize the currencies, but it is another thing to part with our own hardly earned current coin. It is one thing to have our name changed, but it is another thing to change our bank notes to prop up Canada. We might say a good deal more upon the absurdities of the Federation Scheme, as at present proposed,—we might quote the trouble which Lower Canada has invariably given to politicians in general, and which it may still give to any measure of real importance brought before the central Government,—but we have said enough to show our readers that, as regards Nova Scotia, the Conference Scheme is literally a farce,—and an expensive farce.

TRIALS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Many of our readers may have heard of the Dutch felon, who was rolled in a barrel towards a watery doom. The executioners of this individual, however, stopped at a tavern on the way and, whilst they drank each other's healths within, left the cask and the enclosed felon for a few moments unguarded without. A merchant of the city, who was passing that way, heard and heeded the groans of the incarcerated ruffian. “What ails you, and why in so strange a place?” he cried approaching the cask. “Hush!” whispered the felon, seized with a sudden idea, “come near and I will tell you all; these wretched men—now adding their brains in this tavern, want to make me an Alderman. The rogues have vowed to roll me about in this confounded cask until I grant their request. Nothing can be more repulsive to my taste than the idea of such a position—I mean that of an Alderman—two days hard rolling will not change my intention.” The worthy merchant, whose greatest ambition had, for many years, been a seat at the great civic council table, wondered at the man in the cask and said that he would give worlds to become an Alderman. “I'm your man,” whispered the thief, “let us change places; it is easily effected.” Such indeed was the case, and the executioners soon returned, and continued their route towards the sea. They utterly disregarded the frantic cries from within the barrel of “I will be Alderman—I will be Alderman,” which were soon drowned in the rolling Zuyder Zee. Now from this anecdote it would appear that in Holland, Aldermanic honors were in high re-

quest, for upon the effecting would mo have said days on the tect me fr position c gestive of work nev to busine turtle sou avail. S butt as a so liberal trickerled c ferent cir are place ion of a r ment of a low brain a fair sul ture. G Alderma old foozle love of u written d incorpore remains t assume t better pe so many expiratio however on his el that by s he expos personal apoplexy allusion dinners v province by the g sensible those pr however vest, his upon in selected appearat ions, ac names v upon ou lic. W nately fi tually c time ta' not be c such tw he woul leisure l of their per bef basis fo piety of that the few for Alderm