

estate; an —shire incumbent, tells the *Times* that the proposed measure will have such and such an effect upon the morals of his flock; a "Mechanic's Club", in Leeds, or Manchester, has a meeting on the subject; all other institutions of a similar character discuss the matter; then the *Times*—profiting from the opinions of thousands whose views have been embodied in letters which never appear in print—puts forth an article more decided in tone than the first (and for so doing is deemed prophetic, whereas in reality it is merely following the public mind as unfolded in a manner unknown to the outer world); then, there is a monster meeting somewhere; then come monster meetings everywhere; then, the leading men of the day address their constituents; the Press handles the subject in every conceivable light, and before Parliament re-assembles, public opinion—from the Hebrides to the Isle of Wight—from Milford Haven to Shakspeare's cliff—from Cape Clear to the Giant's Causeway—has been weighed and calculated to the nicety of a dozen votes. It is different in these Lower Provinces. Were our delegates to resolve upon fourteen balloon ascents, to take place on the 1st of every month, at the public expense for their benefit, we would in all probability fold our arms and say—Let it be so, but don't trouble us.

THE DELEGATION.

Travelling is expensive and what's the use of being a public officer if you can't use the public purse? Still the public may object, and there is a troublesome opposition party in our parliament which will rouse the country against such a proceeding. But our Provincial Secretary has the wit to get over such a trifle as that! He knows the gauge of our opposition patriots too well and laughs at such a difficulty. What does it matter that the leader of the opposition is in his opinion, not a man of honor? What does it matter that this same leader of the opposition has retorted in the same style? The honorable gentleman would like to travel and so would a few of his associates. The opposition would like it too and it will be particularly pleasant to travel at the public expense and in a public capacity. The latter point is a great matter. Dignity is combined with economy. And so the thing is done. Two men who detest each other so that they cannot speak of each other without descending to vituperation, agree in this, that they can travel together at the public expense—While absent their presses can go on as usual issuing tri-weekly denunciations the one against the other. But that's not worth speaking about. Thanks to the low tone of the Nova Scotian press, the newspapers are never seen out of the British Provinces—reading rooms fighting shy of them—and therefore people's attention will not be drawn to this particular feature of the case. The delegates intend to enjoy themselves thoroughly. Half measures are stupid. And so they take their wives and families with them. It is not good for man to be alone.

This matter of the Union of the Colonies is a very great matter and the men who went to represent us upon such a great matter should have been people in whose judgment we had some confidence. Is there a man living in the Province of Nova Scotia who will tell us that the people who represented themselves as our delegates were men of the slightest weight whatever? Take away from them their chance position as politicians and who would go a step to listen to them? We do not intend to blink this matter. We don't care a straw about the politics. We admit that Mr. HOWE though a keen politician was a man of weight outside of the politics. Mr. YOUNG the present CHIEF JUSTICE also carried weight with him. Mr. JOHNSTON in the house or out of it, among friends or enemies, still had a status. When these men spoke, men listened whether they liked what they said or not. They had a right to speak. So with some of the bygone generation. There were men who you felt had power in their tongues and weight in their opinions. Now we ask of the community openly and clearly—have the men representing us in Canada and P. E. Island the least weight whatever? If they left politics tomorrow would anyone feel that there was a blank. Mr. HOWE is missed—so is Mr. YOUNG so is Mr. JOHNSTON. The Legislature is dwarfed. And how can it be otherwise! When the two leaders of the opposing parties take to belaboring one another in the market place, are

we to be blamed if we protest against their joining arm in arm, treacherously to deal at their own pleasure with our rights? On Friday morning, last week, the *Chronicle* makes an attack upon the government policy as to railroads, sneering at the SOLICITOR GENERAL because forsooth he won't come out in the press and answer a charge which the *Chronicle* has chosen to make against him!—it is a pity he has something else to do—and otherwise insulting the Provincial Secretary, and his co-delegates on the government side. Now then, if the *Chronicle* and those whom it represents, still persist in speaking of the government delegates as unworthy of credit—and if the opinion of the government delegates towards their fellow delegates is of the same nature, we ask again, how dare they come to us, ask us to pay for their trips, and to sanction any measures which they, with enmity towards each other in their hearts, pretend to have devised together for our benefit.

And then the secrecy is delicious. What an importance it gives a man to have a great secret which every body knows that he has. How the great little man lets out a little now and then just to shew that he has more. Of course (he says) I cannot violate official confidence but—you know—and he looks like Lord Thurlow, of whom Fox asked, whether any body really ever was as wise as Thurlow looked—And then he sends on to his own particular paper here a string of telegrams stating that "it is rumored"—that so and so has been arranged. Now if those telegrams are true (and who doubts their source) there is either a falsehood or an absurdity. If it is right that the people should know what is going on, they should know it. If it is not right for them to know it, the member of council who betrays its secrets should be ejected. But what else can we expect? People who have no public spirit to vindicate their own rights must expect to see them trampled on. So soon as this matter was talked of why did not the merchants of Halifax insist upon having a voice in the matter? Are the mercantile interests of such a maritime community as this so unimportant, or so easily understood by outsiders that it was not worth while for it to send a representative, if only to hear and to suggest? Tell us, oh people of Nova Scotia—drop politics for five minutes—shake them off as if they never existed—then imagine yourselves looking about for two gentlemen to represent you abroad. Is there a man woman or child among you that would have picked out for this purpose the Provincial Secretary and the leader of the opposition?

One of the questions to be decided by the Conference at Quebec, or by somebody, is the method of appointing the Legislative Council. Whatever is done, we hope that we shall start fresh—at least in Nova Scotia. For everybody knows how our Council has been appointed here. There are some highly honourable gentlemen in that body, to whom whatever one's political feelings might be, no one could object on the score of social unfitness. Those gentlemen would probably be re-appointed. But we should like to have a word to say about one or two of them. We have strong doubts whether we should be inclined to reinstate in that position the gentleman who threw the whole political world of ours into confusion by demanding that the Council should be paid. In former times, those bad old times, Councillors were honorables and were willing to serve for the honor. But now forsooth Councillors must be paid. A seat in the Council is now a life investment of about seventeen hundred pounds at six per cent. Why did the gentleman make that demand? Because the honor was gone and there was now nothing but the trouble. The moment that that base demand was agreed to by the "Lower House" that "Lower House" should have repudiated the title, and abolished the "upper" and the "honorable" together. Why now should the House of Assembly be summoned to meet His Excellency in the Council Chamber? The presumed reason is that the Council is composed of a superior class of persons—therefore *par excellence* called Honorable. But shadowy as that idea has been for many and many a year, it was not till the Council stinked for wages that the shadow itself departed. Witles as a body of men may be, still if they are willing to work for nothing, it might seem hard to complain. But by what right now does a Councillor claim the title of "Honorable." He begs, he implores, he threatens, till he has worked his way in. He is then paid a pound a day for about a hundred days enjoyment and he claims to be called