

has decried for the same length of time, has only to try it to be convinced that it is one of the most desperate struggles that a man has to overcome. But to a conscientious man there is no retreat. If a man's duty is plain he must perform it, let the consequences be what they may.

The Argus at first was only a six-column paper. When it successfully reached one year's existence, it was enlarged to seven columns, and a year later to eight columns, then as large as any paper published on the Island.

One of the first men I ever had an editorial encounter with, was the late Donald Currie, one of the editorial writers of the semi-weekly Patriot. Mr. Currie was a very bitter anti-confederate and anti-railway man. Like a great many Island politicians of that day he could see nothing good in a political opponent. If a man didn't see exactly as he saw, there was no good in him whatever; if he did it was nearly impossible for him to do wrong. The test of every man's worth was gauged by his politics. If he died in the anti-confederate faith, the gates of Paradise swung open to receive him. If, to this, he added a hatred to a railroad, St. Peter himself would dwarf in his presence. But if he died in the belief that confederation was right and a railroad a necessity, there would be no clapping of cymbals on the occasion, no Gospel promises would light up his darkness, no chariots would come down on the other side to convey him to the eternal city. If a man changed his views on any of these great questions, he was either bought or had some mercenary object in view. He could make no allowance for new light or from the education our mind receives from its contact with other and larger minds. Such was Mr. Currie when I first knew him. That he was honest in his convictions I have not the least doubt. The trouble with him was that he permitted his prejudices to warp his judgment and to cramp his intelligence. As he grew older he became more liberal. As soon as he began to mix up in the society of those he once so fiercely denounced, his harsh judgments began to relax, and he became more kind, considerate and companionable.

Mr. Currie was an able controversialist. He was well informed and ingenious in debate. His style was more forcible