

MR. PENNY'S PAMPHLET ON CONFEDERATION.

HIS ARGUMENTS CONSIDERED AND ANALYSED.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

So much has already been spoken and written on the proposed "Union of the British North American Provinces," that we had concluded to accept the pamphlets and speeches already before the public as sufficient to enable the Parliament and people of Great Britain to form a correct estimate of the merits and demerits of the scheme. It appears, however, that the opponents of Confederation have considered it necessary or advisable, in addition to their famous "Remonstrance" to publish a pamphlet for distribution in England; and Mr. Penny, editor of the "Montreal Herald," has been selected to bear the responsibility of its authorship and publication. It is an elaborate document, written in plain readable English, and will no doubt form a valuable addition to the "Repertoire" of British American politicians. To us however, it lacks one most important feature. We have perused it carefully, and cannot discover a single argument that can claim the merit of novelty. It is simply a pot-pourri of the published anti-Confederation speeches delivered in Parliament, with a strong

spice of the Holton-Dorion Remonstrance. We are puzzled to discover how the partisans of Confederation can feel in the slightest degree alarmed at the circulation of the document in England or elsewhere. On the contrary, we are persuaded that this opposition to the proposed Union, deficient as its organizers are in logic and reason, as exhibited by their publications, will do more to secure its success than reiterated arguments in its favor. The pamphlet, however, is entitled to an analysis by the press, as it refreshes the memory on many points that may fairly be discussed at this particular juncture. Whether that discussion be satisfactory to our confrère of the "Herald" or not, remains to be seen. We shall deal with the work on its merits, avoiding all those unpleasant personalities and allusions to individual antecedents, which we regret to find in the columns of another esteemed contemporary. Unfortunately, these stormy dissensions are of too frequent occurrence, and we shall do our best to avoid engaging in them.

HIS INTRODUCTION.

The author starts with the plausible assertion, that the Confederation of the British North American Colonies "is not simply a political measure," because it has been agreed by the delegates from the different Provinces to construct the Intercolonial Railway, and

acquire the North-West Territory from the Hudson's Bay Company. He terms these schemes of a quasi-economic character." It is certainly true that the 68th clause of the Quebec scheme provides for the early completion of a Railway from Rivière du Loup in