

it may be, the result is always uncertain, and cannot be known until the cause no longer exists. No blame is attached to those who opposed the measure and, in all probability, never will be, for the simple reason that the evils which might have arisen had the Bill been defeated cannot now take place and hence can never be felt. It cannot be denied that the feeling in favor of the present settlement is far from being universal in our Province, but, it is generally thought that the majority of our people accept it, if not cheerfully, at least as the best that could be obtained under the circumstances. It is quite certain that the Bill is the most important one that ever occupied the attention of the Provincial Legislature. Its effects, whether for weal or woe, will be felt through many years to come. That it will be productive of good only and that no abuses will arise therefrom, can scarcely be hoped for—it is, at best, but the production of erring man, and, as such is, of course, far from being perfect. The wrongs, whatever they may be, which will be sure to spring up, or become developed in the future, will have to be accounted for by those who were its most active supporters, while its benefits will, in all probability, be lost sight of, if not entirely forgotten. We do not intend, however, to speculate on the past, or attempt in any manner to criticize the conduct of representatives in the part taken by them in the final settlement. Whether it is the best that could be obtained or not, is now, and ever will be, an unsolved problem. It would be unwise, therefore, to waste our time and energy in striving to contemplate what the result might have been had the local Legislature refused to make terms with Canada at the present time, and still worse to throw obstacles in the way which perchance might militate against the best interests of the country. We feel confident that the final adjustment of our long pending difficulties with Canada will be productive of a vast amount of good. Our political and social relations will be established on a permanent and more cordial basis. An increased impetus will be given to trade and commerce, a large and profitable field for labor of all kinds will be opened up, doubt and despair will be superseded by the restoration of confidence and tranquility, and general financial prosperity will certainly follow. During the past two years there has been a gradual increase in the volume of trade as compared with preceding years since 1861-2. At that time there was a general panic, so to speak, not occasioned, however, by financial pressure, or the fear of war, but a sort of universal contest as to who should take the lead in the race which apparently contained a prize for all. The writer, foolishly supposing under the excitement of the times, that he was about to be-

come a millionaire, very well recollects an effort he once made to purchase a lot on Fisguard Street. The owners of the lot were in England at the time, and their agent, who by the way, strange as it may appear, is still living, was applied to in regard to price and terms of purchase. He very politely intimated that the boom was only just commencing, but if a deposit were made at once, he thought it possible the lot could be had for the small sum of one hundred thousand dollars; he would have to consult his principals, however, as real estate was looking up. It is hardly necessary to say that further negotiations were closed for the time being, the would-be purchaser being unable to make a deposit on a steamboat, if they had been selling at an upset price of twenty-five cents each. I mention this circumstance for the information of strangers, the pioneers of British Columbia, the few that are left, may have a faint recollection of the good times past when every man counted his wealth, not by his possessions, but by his calculations of the prospective. Perhaps, after all, the greatest pleasures of life spring from hopes and anticipations that may never be realized, and if so, it is wisdom to hope on continually, and revel in the pleasures of anticipation. But life is a reality, and happiness the common pursuit of man. Where there is poverty, there can be little surrounding happiness. When it becomes general, there is none, except that which springs from the hope of approaching relief. Poverty is a disease which germinates in the unwholesome state of society, it spreads and becomes epidemic as the causes increase, and, generally speaking, nothing is done to avert the evil until the alarm becomes general, and then society heaves and pulsates in the throes of universal panic. It may be asked what has this to do with "our future prospects." The answer at once suggests itself and is simple, plain and forcible—it has everything to do with them. "An ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure," so says the old proverb. Heretofore our people have been moderately prosperous, and while, with very few exceptions, none have amassed fabulous wealth, poverty, in its worst form, has been almost unknown to us, and now, that we are on the eve of great changes, is the proper time to think deeply and, if possible, provide against any adverse contingency that may arise through miscalculation or defective forethought in the management of affairs as they will present themselves in the near future. There are three things which if properly observed and carried out will constitute an effectual and perpetual safeguard against the possibility of indigence and real want. Honest labor, economy and sobriety, and a fair, liberal and full compensation for labor performed. The first emanates from and depends on the