

by which the appointment of our own officers—the control of our own revenues—the management of our own affairs—was secured to Nova Scotians. We possess and exercise these high powers now, in as full and ample a measure as the freest people on the face of the earth. And shall it be said that the labors of these men were in vain—that their policy was unsound, and that their lives have been wasted?

At this hour our Legislative Councilors, our Judges, and all our public officers, are appointed by our own Government, resting upon the confidence of a clear majority of our own Parliament freely chosen by our own people. If this power were hereafter to be exercised by the nineteen members that we are asked to send to Ottawa, they would be but a minority of the fifty-five who now possess it. Is this Responsible Government? We think not.

But will the nineteen be entrusted with these powers? No. When they go to Ottawa they will be merged into the General Legislature. If they all hang together and always support the Government of the day, they may be largely consulted and very influential in the management of their own Province; but should they ever act together and go into opposition, who then will manage Nova Scotia? Some wily Canadian, who will have his own correspondents and servile creatures here, and who will so make his appointments, as to mortify and weaken the influence of the Nova Scotian delegation. Men that no Nova Scotian likes—that no man trusts—that all our members disapprove—may and will be appointed in spite of their unanimity, so sure as they dare oppose the Government.

But will they be unanimous? Who believes it? Dr. Tupper and Mr. McCully may be friends from the teeth outwards, just so long as is necessary to carry this scheme, but when once it is carried and they meet on the floor of the Parliament House at Ottawa, they will be rivals, perhaps enemies, again. Our members will be no longer unanimous, but split into two factions, each following the fortunes of its leader, and each trying to bargain with the minister for the patronage and control of Nova Scotia. No matter which succeeds, the Province will be at the mercy of either, with a following of three, five or ten members, as the case may be. Is this what Nova Scotians desire to see? Is this the kind of Responsible Government which any sane man would desire to substitute for the wholesome control which the two Branches now exercise over nine gentlemen, discharging Executive functions in presence of the people, and day by day liable to be questioned or displaced by a Parliamentary majority? We think not.

If we were to choose between the two systems, we would say at once, give us back the old Council of Twelve, with Downing Street behind it, rather than the exercise, by a little knot of politicians 800 miles away, of powers which could not fail to be grossly abused, and for the abuse of which it would be impossible to obtain redress.

But it is said "Something must be done." A wise statesman once remarked that he always apprehended danger when certain people declared that "something must be done."

Now here we have our two lawyers and the doctor embarked in the same boat. The waves are beginning to rise, and the fall is not far off, and we are certainly very much amused with their vehement outcry that *something must be done*.

Why should anything be done? Nova Scotia, secure of self-government, can even bear with serenity an Administration that certainly tries her patience at times, for a year or two longer. She has been blessed with a good crop, an abundant fishery, a healthy season; her mining interests are extending;

her shipyards have been busy all the year; her railroads are beginning to pay, and her treasury is overflowing, affording ample means to push forward public improvements just as fast as it is wise to push them, with the little surplus labor we have.

We have not a question to create angry discussion with the mother country, with our neighbors in the United States, or with the Governments of the surrounding colonies. We have entirely reorganized our militia, and drilled every man liable to be called out under the law, within the year.

Who says, then, that something should be done? Those who desire to dash this peaceful picture with the hues of their disordered imaginations. * * *

But it is said that the Canadians have outgrown their Constitution. Well, if they have, what of that? If they are in trouble let them get out of it; but don't let them involve us in distractions with which we have nothing to do. Are not the Canadians always in trouble? Did not Papineau keep Lower Canada in trouble for twenty years, and McKenzie disturb the Upper Province for about the same period? Then did not both Provinces break out into open rebellion, which it cost the British Government three or four millions sterling to suppress? What would have been the situation of the Maritime Provinces then, had they been controlled by the Canadians? Would they not have been compromised by these outbreaks, and might they not all have been made the theatres of civil war? But they were not under Canadian influence. They maintained their loyalty unsullied. The conflagration was confined to narrow limits, and was soon suppressed.

Again in 1849, the Canadians tried their hands at another insurrection. They burnt down their Parliament House; pelted Lord Elgin and his Lady through the streets; hung American flags out of their windows, and published a manifesto, to which the principle citizens of Montreal signed their names, demanding annexation to the United States. Nova Scotians must have short memories if these things are forgotten.

This is the other side of the picture from that which Mr. McCully used to present, and we hail the *Chronicle* as a fellow-worker in opposition to the Union scheme, as agreed upon at Quebec.

Correspondence.

(To the Editors of the "Patriot.")

GENTLEMEN,—

Mr. David S. Kerr, in the *Morning Telegraph*, has favored us with his views on Confederation. It would be very gratifying to have them republished at length. I am afraid, however, that the space at your disposal will not permit of your obliging the public in that particular, but I must request, as a special favor, that you will republish the 3rd, 9th, and 11th sections, which are as follows:—

3. Were a people utterly regardless of all good faith and loyalty and ready for the step of abandoning their country and joining another for supposed self interest, they would even then be stayed in their purpose, upon discovering that self interest better served by remaining faithful to the Government they belonged to,—providing what was necessary, and endeavouring to promote their security and advancement under it. Now if any one will for a moment consider self-interest, in view of American annexation,—being a State in the Union—and not only bearing exorbitant taxes of both local and general Governments, but equally bearing an

enormous war debt,—paying compensation losses, and a burdensome pension list of the widow, the orphan and the maimed, with which that country is every where bespread, he will see in all this, compared to our country's requirements, ten times the burthens and taxation, by annexation, and far less security under the law than he enjoys under British rule; therefore, nothing in self-interest to move any of us to the step of joining the States or giving up British connexion for American annexation, but every inducement to promote our security and advancement by Confederation—united strength and combined power of action.

9 Easy transit and quick facility between such countries largely promote manufactures and products for sale, and create in general numerous commodities for marketable purposes not before so used, and impossible to be enumerated or described before such transit and facility come practically into operation. Now one of the great advantages of the urged Confederation, is the easy transit and quick facility prospectively afforded, by securing the completion without delay of the Intercolonial Railway, connecting the British North American Provinces; thus largely promoting manufactures and products for sale among us, and creating in general numerous commodities for marketable purposes, not before so used, and now impossible to enumerate or describe.

11. The shipping or carrying trade of any country not possessing shipping ports or means of sea carriage is ever of vast advantage to those who may have the best adapted ports and facilities for carrying it on. Here, if Confederation succeeds, the Canadas closed up all the winter, St. John the nearest British port to them, with vast facilities for building and fitting out vessels, and adapted with every advantage beyond any other place to do their carrying trade, must have it, to the great prosperity of the city and Province at large.

I was not aware, until the publication of this article, that "annexation to the United States" was a part of the scheme either of the parties in favor of Confederation or of those opposed to it; neither was I aware that "SELF-INTEREST" was a state in the Union.

I am sorry that it bears "an enormous war debt." That it pays "compensation losses," is, I suppose, no more than honest; that "easy transit and quick facility between countries" creates "numerous facilities for marketable commodities not before so used," I have no doubt it is quite true, because the "marketable commodities created by easy transit," could not have been in existence before "easy transit" was established; and I quite agree with Mr. Kerr in the statement that "these numerous commodities for marketable purposes, not before so used, are now impossible to enumerate or describe." In fact, I believe he has not the slightest idea to what "commodities" he alludes.

The 11th section is very intelligible, but I suppose it is the intention, if Confederation succeeds, that the Canadian ports should be shut all winter, and if we can persuade the Canadas to export no grain or timber during the summer months, I can easily understand that a vast advantage will be gained by the Lower Colonies in case the Intercolonial Railway should be constructed.

I hope that your readers who have not had the opportunity of reading Mr. Kerr's production, will procure the *Telegraph* of the 17th inst. for the purpose. If this should be out of print, by calling upon the author at his office, over the brilliant establishment of the worthy alderman who dispenses light for the million. I have no doubt the enquirer will receive a full and complete account of the article, with amplifications and annotations. The article is a capital hit, and if the author has not already "struck it" it is not in consequence of any deficiency in boring. Yours, &c.

QUIN.