

The Canadian Spectator.

VOL. III.—No. 9.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1880.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

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THE TIMES.

Political friends and opponents will be equally glad to hear of Senator Macpherson's rapid recovery of health. In a short time now he may be expected to resume the office he is so able to fill.

Will the Toronto *Globe* acknowledge that it was strangely misled into making a false statement, and basing a leading article thereupon concerning the Political Economy Society by its careless Montreal correspondent? For the sake of public confidence in the veracity of newspaper reports, I hope it will. There is already far too much cynical distrust abroad of all that appears as news in the columns of our daily papers. The pretentious and silly editorial "we" is fast falling into disrepute, and good writers are beginning to feel and to show that they do not desire to be mixed up with a host of nonentities who endeavour to impose upon the public by a stupid assumption of impersonality; but it would be a pity to dissolve all confidence in what the papers give as items of news. The *Globe* declared that the Political Economy Society had collapsed, when in truth it was not even moribund, but giving signs of vigorous life.

The debate on the Legislative Union was interesting and instructive. One thing was brought out clearly, that the French portion of the population of the Province of Quebec is strenuously opposed to a Legislative Union. The idea meets with only hostility among them. How is that? The following letter will, perhaps, throw some light upon the question. It is written by one who has studied the matter in all its bearings:—

SIR,—I would like to enquire whether in your opinion the French Canadian inhabitants of the Province of Quebec are very sincere in the expressions of loyalty occasionally emitted by their mouthpiece the French newspapers. We all remember the "mot" of the late Sir E. P. Tache, that the last gun in favour of British Supremacy in Canada would be fired by a French Canadian; but many of my friends doubt the soundness of the saying. They do not hesitate to affirm, that French Canadians are still in feeling French, and that if unfortunately war were to break out between Great Britain and France, and a French division of troops be landed in the Province of Quebec, they would rise *en masse* and join the invaders.

In my own opinion any other course on their part would be unnatural; blood is thicker than water, and although French Canadians generally hate the individual Frenchman most cordially, more even than they do the individual Englishman, they sink their hatred for the individual in their love for the mother country of their ancestors, La belle France.

Another strange phase of French Canadian thought presents itself for the consideration of the Anglo-Saxon population of this Province. Until Confederation but few French Canadians were in favour of Annexation to the United States.

Nowadays a change is apparent; they are discontented with the powers vested in the Local Legislature of the Province by the Confederation Act, they sigh for the full rule over the land and its inhabitants and knowing well that were the Province of Quebec to become one of the United States greater powers would be vested in the majority than they now possess, they regard Annexation as a means by which they can more easily resist their coming absorption into the great body of the Anglo-Saxon population of the Continent.

Yours &c.,

Publius.

I think "Publius" is severely correct in his judgment. The British in the Province of Quebec may as well face the fact that the French are determined to remain French. Talk of what we may, sentiment lies at the very root of their existence here. They are not Anglo-Saxon and do not wish to change their language, their laws, or their creed. They were the main cause of our ruinous system of Confederation, and if we do not change our policy they will make annexation to the United States a dire necessity. They are sure that Legislative Union would destroy the French and every other foreign nationality; and they are also sure that if Canada were to enter the union of American States they would have a better chance of maintaining their nationality, and benefitting themselves. They do not care with what recklessness our Government may rule and spend money—the sooner we reach bankruptcy the better; and every year Legislative Union, which would wipe out all nationalities and leave us as Canadians, is put off, we are brought a step nearer to annexation. I commend this to the careful consideration of my patriotic and Tory friend, the *Globe*.

It is difficult to determine whether Mr. Macmaster achieved a real success in his recent attack upon the Lieutenant-Governor's list of luxuries for his trip to Manitoba. Judging by the many answers it provoked in the House, and in the Press, and by the private comments made upon it, I should say it was a success. Barring one or two things, however. Mr. Macmaster is a young man. Now that is a first-class political misdemeanour. What right has a young man to attempt to make a good speech when older men have tried it in his hearing and failed? When "old hands" and Parliamentary experts have said their say about a question before the House, what would a modest and right-minded young man attempt to do more than echo a few of their words? A member in his first session! what can he possibly know about the needs of a travelling Lieutenant-Governor in the matter of cigars and wines? It is a pity, almost a shame, that the new M.P.P. for Glengarry is so young, because a good speech from him has the appearance of presumption, and a suspicion of bumptiousness, and as if he aspired to the leadership of the party, and to a host of other things too numerous to mention. Still, the speech was a success, and I would advise the young member for Glengarry in the Local Parliament not to mind overmuch if he cannot add a cubit to his stature, or a single year to his years.

But worse than youth in a Member of Parliament is "facetiousness." They report that Mr. Macmaster ventured to treat a grave question of champagne and cigars in a light and jocular manner. Fun in the Ontario Legislature! in the city of Mr. Brown and Mr. Mackenzie and the *Globe*! No wonder that the edge of his satire was roughly turned—that the speaker was reprovved and rebuked and castigated into a sobriety of demeanour which lasted for several days. This is a lesson he will not be likely to forget, and it may teach him that the prosy speaker who utters dreary platitudes like the dull clatter of wood upon wood, gets credited by a discerning public with profound wisdom. Had Mr. Macmaster been a doctor and taken his surgical instruments along and used them upon his hearers, he might have attempted some jokes; but he is only a lawyer, and should have known better.

I am glad to see that the Montreal *Evening Post* advocates the abolition of the St. Patrick's Day parade. Not that the thing has any very serious significance for anybody, but all these parades are a nuisance and ought to be discontinued in the interests of public order and comfort.