

readily comprehend British statesmen feeling a momentary regret that the so called boon—Responsible Government—may at times prove a stumbling block in the paths of Imperial policy. No British statesman could have foreseen the extraordinary vagaries engendered by Responsible Government in the minds of Colonial politicians: no ordinary Englishmen could conceive the eccentricities which, in a Country such as ours, cling to those who have been pitchedforked into a false position. One of the most sensational headings which preface articles in the Union press is, "What will they say in England?" We shall endeavour to answer this question. The English people, and the English press, will probably reason thus. We have granted the N. American Colonists a form of government similar to that under which we ourselves live. The colonists wished us to do so, and we conceded the point: let us see how the system has worked, and how colonial politicians have comported themselves. A really great question has recently come before them, a question so vast that the leading men of both Provincial parties have coalesced in hopes of carrying it. Of course these trans-Atlantic statesmen have, to the best of their ability, acted as English statesmen would have acted, under similar circumstances. They have, doubtless, sounded public opinion most carefully, and have made certain of large majorities in the several Senate Houses, otherwise they would not have dared to assert themselves, before the tribunal of the British Government, the bona fide representatives of the several Provinces. They have acted wisely, and the assent of the Colonial Legislatures is of course certain. "The next mail," says the *Saturday Review*, "may bring us news that the creation of the new nationality is complete, so far as the voices of its constituents can determine it, and that nothing remains but for the British Parliament to give the final sanction to the work." Let us now suppose the news arrived—that New Brunswick has refused to listen to her delegates, and that the Nova Scotian delegates cannot reckon on a majority in the House of Assembly. What will Englishmen say? They will probably say,—The course pursued by the delegates from the Lower Provinces has been so extraordinary, so unprecedented, and so insulting to their parliaments, that we know not what to say. The Canadian delegates have proved themselves statesmen, but the less said about the others the better. They have, we fear, deceived themselves and us at the same time—but at present we have no more time to spare in discussing colonial matters. Let us read GLADSTONE'S budget—it may be his last—at least we hope so—and it is far more important than anything connected with the N. American Colonies. This is probably what they will say in England, unless, indeed, the leading articles of the Halifax *Unionist* be transferred to the columns of the *Times*.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

We have so often been compelled to find fault with our Provincial Institutions, that a word of praise from us must merit at least the charm of variety. The Lunatic Asylum is, to our thinking, the Institution of all others whereof Nova Scotians may be justly proud. It is well built, well managed, well supported, and we regret to say—well filled. However distressing it may be to find that the claims of lunatics demand an extra expenditure on the part of the Province, it is satisfactory to know that such claims are not likely to be opposed. We have before us the seventh annual report of the Medical Superintendent of the Asylum, and from it we gain some information which may not prove uninteresting to our readers. During the past year, lunacy has attacked both sexes with most rigid impartiality, twenty-three of either sex having been admitted into the Hospital. The proportion of dismissals within the same period has been in favor of the softer sex by something more than one in six. The daily average number of cases was 153, but from some unexplained cause, the mortality among the patients during the past twelve months has been nearly 2 per cent. higher than the proportionate rate for the five previous years. "The entire number admitted since January 1st, 1859, has been 329, of whom 175 have been discharged, in addition to 4, who, at the date of this Report are absent on trial." From a table of "monthly admissions," ranging over a period of five years, it would appear that November is especially to be dreaded as a month favoring the development of mania, whereas October would seem to be the month most marked by a return of reason. The patients admitted in March are less by 50 per cent. than

those admitted in December, and the admissions during November are nearly four times as large as those of March. We may therefore infer that climatic influences play no small part in the gloomy economy of lunacy. We are sorry to observe that the statistics of the past year exhibit an increase of lunacy among minors. During the year 1864, three lunatics under the age of 21 years were admitted into the Asylum, whereas during the five preceding years the yearly average of minors admitted was but two, and four-fifths. From the same table we learn that lunacy has decreased among those between the ages of 20 and 30, by more than 8 per cent., while among those between 50 and 60, it has increased in a somewhat similar proportion. We are glad to find that, during the year 1864, the bachelors furnished to the Asylum but one patient in excess of the married men, and that out of 23 females admitted, but 7 were unmarried. The corrected average of six years, however, tells sadly against single men—the proportion against bachelors being 108 to 68, while among the female population, the insane spinsters are to the insane wives as 60 to 61. "The relative number of male and female patients, viz: 193 to 136,—or nearly three of the former to 2 of the latter—does not indicate any greater liability to insanity in the sterner sex. Of the total number of insane in the Province, according to the census of 1861, a majority were females. The difficulty attending the removal of female patients from distant localities leads to a smaller number of that sex being admitted, while the consequent delay adds to the hopelessness of the case when eventually brought for treatment. Hence it is, that out of 109 discharged restored during the past six years, only 42 were females."

Turning to the table of "occupations" we find that nearly 50 per cent of those admitted into the Asylum since 1859 have been engaged in farming pursuits, and it would seem the lower we descend in the gradations of life, the more we find lunacy afflicting the female portion of society. The female patients taken from the homes of labourers, or employed as servants, are in excess of the males by 7, whereas the male lunatics taken from the larger farm houses are 13 in excess of the females. Only six soldiers and marines have been admitted, while twenty lunatics have been seamen, or the wives of seamen. More than fifty of those treated have been without any known occupation, and of these no less than forty belong to the gentler sex. We are glad to learn that the attendants are thoroughly trustworthy, and that "on one occasion the presence of mind of the watch-woman was the means of saving the life of a suicidal patient." The expenditure of the Asylum during the year 1864, was \$6644.75, a sum small in proportion to the benefit conferred upon society.

THE LEGISLATURE—MINOR DEBATES.

Among the smaller matters which have occupied the attention of the House during the present session, may be mentioned the somewhat extraordinary attitude adopted by Messrs. COLIN CAMPBELL, and STEWART CAMPBELL, towards the ADJUTANT GENERAL of Militia, a gentleman whose appointment is in the hands of the Crown. It appears, that in April last, a Committee of the House recommended that Capt. J. STEWART, of Clare, Digby County, should receive the sum of \$30, as compensation for having obeyed the orders of the ADJUTANT GENERAL in connection with the enrolment of the Clare Militia. Whether a commissioned officer should of necessity be paid for obeying the orders of his superior officer, is a question we need not now consider, inasmuch as it has no bearing upon the relations which exist, or ought to exist, between the House of Assembly and an officer directly commissioned by the Crown. It must, we fancy be apparent that any collision between the Parliament and the ADJUTANT GENERAL of Militia should be avoided. Once let politics in any way interfere with the working of the militia force, and we may bid good bye to all hopes of the latter's efficiency. The ADJUTANT GENERAL should be independent of the Lower House, as regards the details of the militia service, and we are at a loss to conceive why the claim of Capt. STEWART was ever allowed to go before a Committee at all. Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL had, he informs us, "placed

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