dren, who was concerned in the rebellion, has been removed by the authorities, but the governess has been left with helpless charges. The ladies Splenzi are anything but cast down, and exhibit a boasting, as of yore, of their high and mighty connections. Madame Perzel would willingly have her children with her; but her husband, in his hurry to escape, left her so completely without money, that she has not wherewith to to defray the expenses of their journey. Another officer who has just arrived here from Comorn, informs us that he had, when there, an opportunity of seeing Asserman's aid-de-camp, who having laid aside the modesty and timidity of her sex, had not only donned the Honven uniform, but had been actively engaged in fourteen battles. This second Joan of Arc is about twenty years of age. The Honven officers who have just left Comorn, are by no means humbled by their late disaster; for, not content with parading the streets in Pesth in full uniform, they appeared in the theatre a few nights since, with their sabres at their sides. As was to be expected, a proclamation appeared the next morning, prohibiting their wearing side arms for the future. The uniforms were not mentioned, as it is known that their wearers have no other clothes. It is to be hoped that the execution of the unfortunate men at Arad, and that of Count Batthyani, will induce these misguided men at once to retire into private life, instead of by their arrogant behavior, exciting the desire of revenge, which is latent in every imperial soldier. I have to-day received a letter from Pesth, which informs me that Count Batthyani was shot between half-past five and six o'clock in the afternoon of the 6th. My correspondent states that the unfortunate man stabbed himself in the throat with a small dagger, and that the report of his having wounded himself with a needle was incorrect. In a few days the whole affair must be cleared up, as, 'nolens volens,' the ministerial organs must give some account of what has taken place. I will give you some idea of the simplicity of even the more educated classes here, when I inform you what I heard at dinner yesterday. I had expected, considering the company assembled, that the charge of unnecessary cruelty would be brought against the authorities for executing Batthyani and the insurgent chiefs at Arad; but I confess I was not prepared to hear my liberal friends disapprove of the proceeding, because men of such high rank had been the sufferers. Yet these are some of the very persons who, in theory, are the great champions of paragraph 27 of the constitution, which runs, 'All Austrian subjects are equal in the eye of the law, and are subject to the same courts of justice.'—The Pesther Zeitung, which has this moment been brought in, contains the sentence of Count Battyani. There is not a word in it of his having been privy to the murder of Count Latour, as was stated to be the case by the Pesth correspondent of the Oesterreische Correspondent. The Count was condemned to death for high treason, he having, in a placard, called upon his countrymen to resist the imperial authority, after the Hungarian ministry had been dissolved by royal rescript on the 3rd of October, 1848. The late magnate's property is also confiscated.'

DREADFUL MURDER AND INQUEST.

An inquest was held on the 10th inst., at the house of Jacob Nell, on lot No. 14, on 4th concession of the township of York, before J. Ackland De La Hooke, Esq., Coroner, on the body of Maria Nell. On viewing the body of the unfortunate woman it presented a frightful looking spectacle, being literally covered with bruises, and entirely naked. there were seven wounds on the head, and the face was swollen and very much discoloured. Jacob Strong deposed that on the previous day, he lent his team to Jacob Nell to carry a load of wheat to Toronto, and that the deceased Maria Nell, his wife, accompanied him. About ten o'clock the same evening, whilst witness was waiting at the house of Jacob Nell to take his horses, Jacob Nell came home—Jacob Strong observing his face and hands to be covered with blood, asked Nell what was the matter, to which he made no reply, but immediately took a large heavy whip out of the house and said he would drive the devil out of her. Deponent then took the horses to the stable, and noticed that a barrel of salt which was in the waggon was covered with blood, as also the waggon box and sundry other articles in it were alike besmeared with blood, pieces of hair were hanging about different parts of the waggon; during the time he was unharnessing the horses, he heard sounds as if flogging with a whip, either on the road or inside the field. Witness then came to the house and took the lantern, and went out and called Jake three or four times, but could get no answer, he then returned to the house and remained a short time, when he went out again and called to Nell, and asked him if he should bring him a light, Nell replied no she was not to be seen with the light. Witness then returned to the house, and in a short time heard Nell dragging the deceased through the bed room window at the back of the house, when the deceased gave a groan, and the window was shut down. Jacob Nell then came out of the bed room and lit a lamp and took a dish of warm water in with him, after some time he came into the room where witness was, and said he was afraid she would die, and begged him to go for the doctor.—When Nell first went into his bed room he took a large carving knife with him. Witness went to the bed room door, and saw the deceased was covered up, and told Jacob Nell to go into bed with her which he did, when he held his ear to hers and said she was alive yet. After this witness took his horses and went home.

Allan Burton, another witness, stated, on that day he took a load of wheat to Toronto for Jacob Nell, that the deceased was with him, and that on their return from Toronto, Nell took two or three glasses of whiskey, and that when he parted with them near Templeman's tavern at Weston, he thought Nell just felt his liquor.

The prisoner Jacob Nell throughout the investigation preserved a dogged silence.

A verdict of Wilful Murder was returned against Jacob Nell, who was committed on the Coroner's warrant to gaol.—*Colonist.*

THE ANNEXATION MOVEMENT.—We are strongly of the opinion of a correspondent, whose communications have lately appeared in this journal, that the annexation questions will, in spite of the mischief intended by some parties—do good. It has already elicited facts respecting the Province, which, but for it, would not have been elicited. It has turned public attention in the direction it most required to be turned. It has caused those who never enquired before to enquire and search for themselves, and the result of all this has been to strengthen the good cause, and indefinitely postpone the danger of "Annexation."—We take it that the parties who set in motion that question have by this time found out their mistake. It is a strong fact that throughout the whole Province, they have found scarcely a single newspaper to join them, and that they are at the present moment infinitely weaker than they were when they had just issued their manifesto. No where have they succeeded in getting up a demonstration in their favor. In Montreal, the few influential parties who at first (unfortunately, we think) allowed their names to be made use of, are understood to decline proceeding further in the matter.—*Montreal Transcript.*

HURON SIGNAL.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1849.

ANNEXATION OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.

WE had partly resolved to take no further notice of the Annexation bubble, from a conviction that it will fall to the ground of its own accord. But, in a late number of the Sherbrooke *Gazette*, we have observed a Requisition sanctioned by nearly one thousand names, of what we suppose to be Electors of the County of Sherbrooke, and addressed to A. T. GALT, Esq., their Representative. The Requisitionists express their cordial approbation of the sentiments contained in the Montreal Annexation Manifesto, and request the opinions of their Member on the subject:—to which Mr. GALT has responded at some length, not only approving of the Annexation movement, but also adducing his best reasonings in defence of it. Now, Mr. GALT is not only a clever man, but a man of much influence, and although we are satisfied that no amount of influence or reasoning will induce Great Britain to submit quietly to the loss of her North American Colonies at present, yet we are equally satisfied that the influence and example of such men as Mr. GALT may be the means of inducing many simple, well-meaning men to join in an agitation which may terminate in their ruin. Mr. GALT says—"I would shrink from advocating a cause which would array Canadians against their fellow subjects in Britain," and we are willing to believe that this declaration is made in sincerity. But every man who has paid any attention to the conduct of mankind, must be aware that the great majority are easily excited upon any subject, and that however peaceably they may unite in an agitation, they become bold and resolute as they proceed, till, at length, the object which was to be attained by fair discussion and reasoning, will be attempted by threats and violence. For our own part, we feel perfectly convinced, that if this agitation is persisted in till thousands of the less intelligent portion of our fellow Colonists get fully warmed on the subject, and fully impressed with the conviction that they have a right to throw off the authority of the Parent State, and that it would be their interest to do so—*a civil war in miniature will be the result.* We say "in *miniature*," for it must necessarily be on a very small scale, unless the United States should sympathise with, and assist the Annexationists; and under the existing commercial relations of Great Britain and America, this assistance need scarcely be reckoned on. But supposing that the magnitude of the rebellion should not exceed the affair of Navy Island, still it must be admitted that even such an affair involves consequences serious enough to deter every good man from being instrumental in producing it. Sufferings, misery, and death, will result to a number of individuals—the public mind will be alarmed and excited—business of every kind will be brought to a stand—and the credit and character of the province will receive a shock which will be felt for years, while on the other hand, not one iota of good can possibly result from it, either to the cause of liberty or the furtherance of Annexation. Now, as Mr. GALT would shrink from the advocacy of a cause that would lead to hostilities with the Mother Country—as he is aware that our opinions of the reckless and uncontrollable impetuosity of the mass of mankind, when once excited on a political subject, are substantially correct, and as he must admit that the probability of Britain opposing Annexation is very strong, we think, before proceeding one step farther in the advocacy of the subject, he should urge upon the leaders of the movement, the honesty and the humanity of first ascertaining the mind of the British Government on the question. If the Imperial Government will declare that the Annexation question may be settled by the voice of the Canadian people, then, we have no objection to any amount of lawful agitation on the part of the Annexationists, for the purpose of gaining a majority. But the man who endeavors to excite the hopes and passions of the ignorant multitude with the bubble of "peaceable Annexation," while, at the same time, he feels the conviction that the British army stands between Canada and the United States, is, to our mind, an enemy, not only to the prosperity of Canada, but also an enemy to the progress of civilization and the well-being of his own species.

We feel satisfied, that even with the consent of the British Government, it would be impossible to induce a majority, or, even a respectable minority of the people of Upper Canada to agree to a Union with the States. We are too proud of our national individuality to consent to be swallowed up, or become a mere insignificant integer of the unwieldy Republic. Even in our present Colonial capacity, we occupy a much prouder position, and a more independent political existence, than any State of the Union. We are entire strangers to the misery and degradation complained of by the Annexationists, and unless some better and more tangible objections to our present condition are brought forward than those adduced by Mr. GALT, the majority of the intelligent men in this section of the Province are likely to hug their prejudices in favor of British connexion. It is generally known that we pay less taxes than the people of the Republic. The tradesman receives a much higher price for his labor, and, with the exception of grain, the farmer receives a much higher price for his produce—the workmanship of the cabinet maker, the shoemaker, the tailor, the blacksmith, the tinsmith, the tanner, the hatter, the machinist, and almost every other trade can be purchased in Detroit, Buffalo, or Rochester, for nearly one half what it would cost in Upper Canada. Cheese, butter, and hams, are much cheaper in these places than in Canada, and if we take the whole States of the Union, it will be found that the price of wheat in Canada is above the average.—It is unjust and unreasonable to take the price of wheat in the State of New York, and exhibit it as a fair specimen of the value of the article throughout the Union. But take the price in New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and the price in Canada at present is considerably above the average. The transit from Chicago to the seaboard is easier and cheaper than from Goderich, and yet the Huron farmer is receiving ten or twelve cents per bushel more for his wheat than the farmer at Chicago.

The idea of Annexation bringing American capital to circulate freely amongst us is, to say the least of it, rather extravagant. We believe the speculating Yankee will build no railroads unless he sees a prospect of a full remuneration. In short, it appears to us that the Annexationists wish to unite merely in the hope of sharing or setting themselves heirs to a large portion of Jonathan's wealth, and we doubt if Jonathan is disposed to make any such foolish bargains. If their public lands are more valuable than ours, it is chiefly because ours are badly managed, and the cure of this evil is entirely in our own hands, and supposing, for instance, that the wild lands of Illinois should yield a much greater revenue than those on Lake Huron, we do not understand how this would benefit the people of Huron. Texas has shared but sparingly of the wealth and enterprise of the States, and it is doubtful if her condition at this moment is five per cent. better than it was before she was annexed. In reference to Mr. GALT's main argument, viz.: that we have no public works—no safe and remunerative investment for capital, and few opportunities of preferment or distinction to stimulate or reward the talent of our youth, we must admit that the limited population of Canada, scattered over a large extent of territory, and the fact that nineteen twentieths of that population are such as have been driven from their native land by sheer poverty, afford but little room for speculative *fortune making*, and equally little room for literary or warlike distinction—hence it is at once conceded that Canada is a poor country for the idle speculator, and the military hero, however enterprising or valiant. But these fields of fortune making, and these ladders of promotion must not be taken as an index to public comfort. Great Britain has at this moment a greater amount of capital invested in public works, in mercantile and manufacturing speculations—a greater field of promotion, more idle Gentlemen, and more large salaries and pensions than any other country in the world, and yet the mass of the people toil more, and are worse fed, and worse clad than the laboring mass of Canadians—in fact, they are living in actual misery, and are impelled by absolute want to flee from the land of capital—of manufactories, and of well-paid ambition, to seek a comfortable subsistence—a fair remuneration for their industry in the wilds of Canada.

The Annexation movement has been got up by a few place-hunters, and a few mercantile speculators, who have discovered that the present circumstances of Canada are not adapted to their lofty aspirations—their doleful lamentations of ruin and decay refer exclusively to their own condition, and are likely to be estimated at their true value by the *industrious* population. It is pretty generally understood that the chief cause of the difference in the market price of wheat, in New York and Montreal, arose from the difference in freight at these ports; and every intelligent farmer expects that the repeal of the Navigation Laws will go far in equalizing these differences, and is waiting patiently for the result. In reality, the *one* political evil of Canada is the expense of her Government, and the salaries of her officials. The redress is in the hands of the people, and if they lack courage to use it, we should, for our own part, be sorry to see them annexed as a drag to the energies of Jonathan—and if they do use it successfully, the Annexation bubble will soon burst.

WHO MADE THE DRUNKARD?

MAN has often been designated the "anomaly of creation," and it must be admitted that if he is not the only contradiction in nature, he is at least the most striking—he is, in so far as our knowledge of conscious creatures extends, the only animal which acts voluntarily and deliberately in opposition to the principles of his own happiness. Self-preservation and an instinctive and invariable abhorrence of pain are prominent characteristics of all living things save man, and he does, at times, appear as the reckless, lawless monster of nature. Often, often have we wondered at the fatal stupidity of the poor house-moth plunging into the flame of the candle, and instantly sacrificing life where there is no visible enjoyment; but, there is a deeper and a guiltier stupidity exhibited every day by man. The poor moth is actuated by a strong instictive desire for light, and, without the benefit of experience or the capability of reasoning, is induced to seek the gratification of this desire unconscious and unapprehensive of danger—its first adventure is its last, it gains the requisite experience only at a vast expense for knowledge and death come at the same instant. Man desires pleasure perhaps as ardently as the moth desires light, and seeks it with as much avidity and at as great a hazard. But man has knowledge, the fruit of bitter dear-bought experience. He is capable of remembering and reflecting, and he is conscious that he is responsible for his conduct. He has seen his fellowmen, year after year, plunge into the yawning vortex of debauchery in search of pleasure. He has seen his companions quaff the intoxicating cup till day after day the thirst for artificial excitement became stronger and more irresistable—till the nervous system is shook and shattered, and till the whole mechanism of the frame exhibits the appalling symptoms of premature and convulsive death! He is aware that the physical, moral and intellectual energies of acquaintances, friends and relatives have been enfeebled and collapsed by the use of spirituous liquors—that their reputation, happiness and means have been wrecked and ruined by the unhallowed practice—that bestiality, idiocy, and a hopeless futurity become their allotment portion on earth, and that the livid, bloated carcass and the unhonored grave of the drunkard wind up the scene. And, in addition to this experience and knowledge, his reasoning faculties inform him that similar causes will, for ever, produce similar effects. And yet in defiance of these awful warnings, in violation of the first and strongest law of his nature, and in the face of his own convictions and reasonings he follows in the same accursed path and arrives at the same goal of hopeless, helpless wretchedness! Under such fearful circumstances exhibiting such a mass of moral turpitude and physical degradation, sweeping on from year to year, and from generation to generation, filling the abodes of men with misery and the green places of the earth with dry bones; it is certainly incumbent on every man who values the happiness and character of humanity to ask, "Who made the Drunkard?" We are not of the number who would leave the entire criminality of creating drunkards, at the door of the Distiller or the grog-seller. These individuals are guilty in an eminent degree, and it certainly requires some strange logic to lull the convictions of conscience in the professing Christian or the intelligent man who sells liquor to his fellow-worshipper, or his fellow-man till he has transformed the image of God into the likeness of something worse than the common brute: yea, the likeness of the Devil. We say it must require some strange logic to satisfy the conscience of the manufacturer or the retailer of spirituous liquors that he is not chargeable with some of the insane blasphemies, immoralities and crimes of the wretched creature to whom, for money, he has administered the cup of madness. It may be said that spirituous liquors are useful—somebody must sell them—I did not *force* the man to get drunk—and had I not sold him the liquour somebody else would have done so. The pickpocket says had I not taken the gentleman's pocket-book, some other pickpocket would have taken it, but this is a very shallow kind of sophistry—the principle of doing evil to save some other person the trouble of doing it, will not be received as a principle in moral philosophy. And although it may be *necessary* to sell intoxicating drinks, it is not *necessary* that I should allow or encourage other men to waste the substance of their families by destroying their reason, and brutalising their nature in my house, and it is far from moral, that I should receive their money as the price of their degradation. It is literally the wages of iniquity.—And hence we say that every respectable and well disposed man who has thoughtlessly embarked in the traffic of drunkenness, should slip out of the trade as quietly and as quickly as possible, lest peradventure a small portion of the drunkard's blood should be required at his hands. But though we believe the Destiller and the vender of spirituous liquors to be more directly implicated in the manufacturing of drunkards, and in their guilt and ruin, still we are very far from resting the entire responsibility on their heads. The error lies in public opinion—in the customs and usages of society, and more especially in the low standard which even pious men have reared for public morality. In short every man who uses intoxicating drinks as a common beverage, or as an article for common use at his table, whether he uses a large quantity or a small quantity, is, to some extent responsible for the guilt and misery and ruin of the drunkard.—He is guilty in the first place, inasmuch as his example is an open avowal of his belief that the use of spirituous liquors as a common beverage, if not absolutely necessary, is at least harmless. He is guilty in the second place, in as far as his use of the article is an inducement to the distiller, and the retailer to embark in, and prosecute the traffic; for, it is evident that no decent man would incur the disgrace of opening and keeping a tavern exclusively for the accomodation and debasement of drunkards; and he is guilty in the third place, because he has again and again filled the cup and pressed it upon the poor unfortunate wretch, whose thirst for artificial nervous excitement waxed stronger and more irresistable under the influence of every successive draught, till at lenth the stage was attained that sealed his doom as a ruined irreclaimable drunkard. Ponder, O reader, on these allegations—commune with thy own soul, know certainly if thou art an accomplice in the perpetuation of that flood of misery which drunkenness is pouring on humanity, and remember, that "for all these things *God will bring thee into judgement!*"

QUARTER SESSIONS AND DISTRICT COURT.

THE Court of Quarter Sessions and the District Court opened on Tuesday. There was a considerable amount of business awaiting both Courts, but the want of a Grand Jury precluded any proceedings in criminal matters for the first two days—whether the blame of this bungling and trifling with the revenue of the District, and the convenience and interests of a considerable portion of the inhabitants will be a subject of future enquiry, but in the mean time we cannot refrain from offering a few remarks on this awkward affair. On the present occasion both the Grand and Petit Juries were summoned from the Eastern extremity of the District, and the majority of the Jurors would have at least forty five or fifty miles to travel on a road which is merely passable at present for a man on horse-back, and many of these men have no horses, so that although no amount of inconvenience should be received as a sufficient apology for refusing to obey the authority of the law, yet we must admit that under such unfavourable circumstances it is almost unreasonable to expect men to comply. And we were certainly much pleased with the pointed and judicious remarks of Judge ACLAND, on the thoughtless impropriety of summoning Juries from the remote townships of the District at this season of the year, we trust the remarks will have the desired effect, and that the Sheriff, in endeavoring to divide the duty devolving on Jurors, equally over the several sections of the District, will, in future, make his arrangements with a due consideration to the circumstances and convenience of the people.—By an order from the Bench the Sheriff was authorised, last evening, to amend the Precept of the Grand Jury, and a number of Gentlemen belonging to the town and neighborhood were added to the list, in order that the criminal business might be proceeded with. There may be some doubts as to the legality of this step, but in the present exigency it must be regarded as an act of economy and charity, emanating from the best of motives.

☞ THE CANADIAN HERO TRIUMPHANT!!—We learn from the Detroit papers, that the Democrats have elected their Governor in the State of Michigan, and also have obtained a large majority in both Branches of the Legislature—Of course GEN. CASS will be again elected United States Senator from Michigan. He is the man who stated in a speech in the United States Senate, that he could take Canada with about five hundred men, and only make a breakfast job of it!—What encouragement to the Canadian annexationists to have such a hero to head them rank and file, and lead them to VICTORY!—COM.

☞ The Seventeenth Loan Meeting of the Huron District Building Society, will take place on Saturday, the 30th inst.—See Adv.

SQUIRREL HUNT.—Yesterday afternoon, nine of our citizens went a squirrel hunting in the vicicity of this village. They divided into two parties, and in three and a half hours they killed 216. This, we think would hardly be beat in this region.—*Medina Whig.*

From the Journal and Express.

LETTERS FROM AN OLD REFORMER.

NUMBER VII.

DEAR SIR,—It is with much pleasure that I perceive, in the Provincial prints, an agitation of the subject of an Elective Legislative Council. The question has been dormant too long already, and I glory in the fact of its coming vitality. In the concessions nothing more than rights—we have overlooked one of the most important of our claims—the Elective Council. Whilst Canadians were fighting for even a portion of responsible Government, this neglect was unavoidable, and excusable enough; but, now that the outworks have been carried, it is a criminal act to longer delay the attainment of so valuable a stronghold.—It is madness to linger and idle whilst such important work yet remains to be done; time for the gratification of curiosity will come when the vicinity is gained.

The advantages—and, what are more, the necessities—of an Elective Legislative Council have been reiterated again and again by our politicians, but they have either fallen upon deaf hearers, or indifferent readers. The public have nodded their heads in assent, but kept their hands in their pockets; this apathy must be shaken off, or responsible Government remain nothing more than a beautiful and empty shell. So long as the Legislative Council remains as at present constituted, or rather subject to its present constitution, so long will political freedom remain insecure. Unlimited in its numbers and liable to periodical or varying additions, it is converted into a mere echo of the opinions of the administration, and possesses neither independence nor utility. It must be either elected or abolished. Whilst it cannot now successfully oppose the legislation of the Lower House, it has all the power of obstruction and delay of bickering eloquence. Take last session as an example. What did the Legislative Council effect? It assented to every bill passed by the Lower House, made slight alterations, and originated nothing. But whilst it thus stood in one sense at *nil*, it produced incalculable mischief in other forms. Old and besotted partizans poured forth their venom and abuse night after night; vituberative speeches excited a willing mob; and I do not assert too much, when I say, that the seed sown in the chamber of the Council, sprung up an ill-thriven and noxious weed in the streets of Montreal. Your readers cannot have forgotten the speeches on the Rebellion Losses Bill, and the other violent debates, which were duly reported in the newspapers. And, after all those meaningless tirades, what could or did the Council perform? A few of its members signed a frothy protest, and a majority, created 'Canadian Lords' at the beginning of the session, passed the Bill introduced by the Ministry. I am not, in this, attacking any particular Act—I am exposing the folly of the system. The Ministry, in adding to the number of members, did merely what they were in duty bound to do. They had no alternative and would have been madmen to have selected others than partizans. They found an obsticle, and only surmounted it by treading in the paths of others. They could not wait to cut it down, and followed the beaten track. But the Reformers of Canada must take care that the same necessity does not occur again. In the nature of things, a rotation of office may take place; a Radical Ministry may again come to be barricaded, and it may be more difficult to clamber-over. Whilst they have leisure, let them devote it to clearing away the rubbish—let them throw aside the impediment. I see that the League have *nearly* denounced the absurdity of crown-nominated representatives of the people. The Leaguers are not all tories; and even if they are, what matter it to Reformers, should they help in obtaining a reformation of abuse? I do not agree in a patched up coalition of parties, but when I see one who has been a tory, advocating improvement, I examine into his motives. If I find him free from desire for office, I cannot consistently refuse his aid. I detest a cowardly or selfish deserter but always hail a convert as a good and legitimate accession to our ranks. For what Mr. Editor, do we expostulate and argue? For the purpose of convincing an opponent, or for a mere victory of words?—I say, therefore, if the Leaguers are really desirous that the Legislative Council should be made elective, let them work with us, but, at the same time, all due caution must be observed that they do not steal a Tory march upon us, and make Reformers the scape-goats, by which the Tory faction shall usurp the high places again.

Some persons are afraid that Great Britain would never consent to an Elective Legislative Council, and on that account think it a waste of time to agitate it.—Great Britain would never have conceded Responsible Government if we had not shown that we must have it. The agitation of the matter can do no harm; and it is a paltry cowardice that will not risk something to obtain much. I like your idea of circulating petitions, and having them exhibited for signature at the township meetings. I hope that such a course will be generally adopted in January next, and public opinion thus obtained on several very important questions.

I am, &c.,

AN OLD REFORMER.

From the Provincialist.

BENEFITS OF ANNEXATION TO CANADA.

Our friends need not be startled at this exception; we have not yet united ourselves with those who would separate this province from Great Britain; nor will we do so until the demands now made for the redress of certain wrongs under which Canada labors, and which we have frequently pointed out, shall have been passed by unheeded,—or until the reforms called for shall have failed of producing the desired good.

The friends of liberty in Canada have been loud in their demands for certain changes for many years. Had these been granted in season, the rebellion of '37 would never have occurred; indemnification for rebellion losses would not have been required; the Tories of Montreal would have had no pretended reason for burning the parliament house, and there would of consequence have been no cry for annexation. Thus it appears plain, that those who oppose the beneficial changes required in 1836 have been the cause of all our evils of late years; they are primarily the cause of the present agitations.

But it is an ill wind that blows no good; there are certain evils that tend to cure themselves, and this former opposition of the Tories to free institutions is one of them. That begat the League and the cry for annexation, and these, we verily believe, will materially hasten the redress and removal of the stubborn wrongs which we have endured so long. One reason why reform leaders have been so slow in grasping lustily with Canadian difficulties, has been a fear of offending too deeply the political and ecclesiastical leaders of the Tory party—for they have had both. The new position in which these have latterly been placed has driven them to cry out for changes which the Reformers of Upper Canada, at least, had not put into their bill of grievances—we mean an elective Legislative Council and elective institutions throughout, or failing these—Annexation itself. These demands of the Tories have removed one of the greatest hinderances in the way of vigorous action on the part of a Reform ministry. The way is now cleared, and they are left wholly without excuse unless they courageously apply the axe to the root of this many-headed Canadian Upas.—Whether the Tories are sincere or not—many of them we doubt not are truly so—Reformers should take them at their word; let there be a safe but sweeping change; should it fall heavily upon all the incumbents in office, they cannot murmur; it is the prescription of their party. Give us an elective Legislative Council; it will do good—great good—and follow it up by granting the people the power of electing all their local officers, as the District Council have elected their Treasurer of late years.

Matters have now reached that crisis at which there is left with our ministry but a choice between two courses—a *full and hearty yielding to the demands of the people for reform and retrenchment*—or ANNEXATION. One or two of these two courses is now inevitable. Loyalty is a fine thing—we like it right well, but really it costs too much if it requires the farmer to give away every fifth bushel of wheat, the mechanic every fifth day's hire, the laborer to live on two meals a day when he could have three, and so of most other kinds of occupations; these are evils which we cannot be expected to endure long. The Clergy Reserves and Rectories must be settled on grounds of common justice to every religious denomination in the province; representation must be based upon population; salaries must be proportioned to the means of the province;—we must have elective institutions, and England must procure for us reciprocity of trade with the United States. With these changes—all of which we are perfectly prepared to work—England may reckon upon a long period of affectionate connexion with her North American Colonies, *without them*, we know not what a year may bring forth. Experimenting upon patience is a dangerous business.

But will the present ministry have the boldness, the courage to introduce such measures? and should they do so, will Great Britain sanction them? We have great confidence in the men now in power,—we can and have made every allowance for their not having accomplished more than they have for the last twenty months; but from the temper of the times—the amount of enquiry and information that has resulted to the Tories from the discussions of the League, and to both parties from the agitation of the Annexation movement—the unusual and new thoughts that now occupy men's minds—we verily believe that even the Canadian Reformers will find others to lead them on at the next elections, unless the present Administration show themselves like men, and come forward prepared, at the next meeting of parliament, with such measures as will meet the reasonable wishes of the people and the exigencies of the times. Let them do this and they may have any lease of office with the lasting gratitude of the Canadian people; and their names handed down to posterity as patriots and statesmen; let them *refuse* it, and their names will perish before themselves, or, if not, they will be pronounced with execration by every true lover of Canada's welfare and of British connexion.

But if the ministry assume that bold and fearless attitude as Reformers, if they introduce these wholesome alterations, will Great Britain sanction them? We answer—she dares not do otherwise, or the colonies are lost. England needs these Colonies *more than they need her;* these changes will do her no harm; they will do us incalculable good; they will unite us in affection with her and her destinies; they are purely local in their application and bearing; any interference on her part would effectually wean our affections from her; she sees through all this, and more too—that then a single turn of the wheel of fortune or misfortune would take the brightest gem out of her Crown and place it in the lap of a Republican mistress.

Evidently, then, it remains with our ministry to perpetuate our connexion with the parent state; let them take the hold initative in settling our matters *rightly* right; let them say to England—these are the changes demanded by the people, and the only conditions upon which the connexion between us and you will be a happy one; and from motives of mere policy she would most readily assent to such an adjustment of our affairs. But let our parliament leave the introduction of a Clergy Reserve or Rectory measure to the Government of Great Britain and—and—well, we might as well speak out—and *the matter will not be honestly settled;* that is the end of it.

Reform Ministry of Canada! British Connexion, the prosperity of Canada, the gratitude of the Canadian people, the grateful remembrance of your own names by your countrymen—all call upon you—all "expect you to do your duty."