

Government that there is perhaps most danger that, in the excitement of party contests, to which such Governments are peculiarly liable, measures not consistent with strict justice may sometimes be attempted, and may require to be checked by the authority of the Crown, entrusted to the Secretary of State." The practical common sense of these remarks none will deny, and in order to act in accordance with their spirit it is absolutely essential that our future Governors should be selected from without the Province. To expect that a man who has for years been attached to one local party or another, should all at once tutor himself into an uncompromising neutrality, is to expect too much. Our party warfare has hitherto of necessity been somewhat small, and it is upon small questions that partizanship commonly runs highest. We doubt if there be in Nova Scotia one man of real influence whose political sympathies are not strong in favor of some one party. And in a small community such as ours, where party feeling at times generates personal rancour, our only safeguard lies in the unquestioned neutrality of our local head. Such neutrality cannot be found among ourselves,—it must be imported from without the Province, and the question naturally arises—from whence shall we import it? The Confederate Government undertakes to settle this question for us, but we hardly feel inclined to accord it such a power. Suppose that the Confederate Government were to appoint a Governor for this Province on the recommendation of the gentlemen who were supposed to represent us at the Conference,—or suppose that a Canadian gentleman were deputed to reign over us,—would we be altogether satisfied? Yet such may, and probably will be the case, if we suffer ourselves to be dragged blindfold into the proposed Federation. We want as Governors, men thoroughly competent to discharge their duties with dignity and firmness, but we are not disposed to admit that such men can be found only in the Canadas. Assuming the combined population of the maritime Provinces to be to the population of the Canadas as one to six, we are entitled to find among ourselves at least one Governor. Yet we hardly think the people of New Brunswick would like to see a Nova Scotian enthroned at Fredericton,—or that the people of this Province would like to see their Privy Councillors summoned to the Province Building by a New Brunswicker. Neither are we of opinion that the Islanders would welcome a Newfoundlander to the throne of Charlottetown,—or that an Islander would find favor at the Council Board of St. Johns. Still less likely is it, that the Canadas would consent to be governed by one from the Lower Provinces. Seeing, therefore, that it would be altogether inexpedient that a Nova Scotian should assume viceregal powers over his fellow men, and seeing that we are not disposed to award to Canadians all the newly proposed prizes which Federation discloses to our view, we cannot but pronounce the scheme proposed by the delegates as impracticable. That it is sound in theory we admit, but that it can practically succeed is—impossible. If we are to have Governors at all, they must be imported from the mother country. But, we doubt whether any Englishman of mark would accept a Governorship under the terms resolved upon at Quebec. Take for example one resolution of the late Conference,—“That laws of local legislatures be subject to approval of Confederate Government.” Why, in this case, should we have any local legislature? If we cannot be trusted to make laws for our own legislature, the existence of any such legislature will involve a perfectly useless expenditure! In fact, view the proposed Federation in any light apart from its connection with the Intercolonial Railway, and it presents an appearance so anomalous—so utterly crude and unsatisfactory—as to scare all, save those whom we allowed to go forth in our name, to fight our battles with the world. However, the proposed Federation is still only—a proposal; and we trust that Nova Scotians will yet declare themselves, in favor of the only union by which we may grow great as well as rich—a Legislative Union.

OYSTERS.

I wear a beard but have no chin,
I leave my bed to be tucked in.

There is a pleasing little apologue, with which, no doubt, every one is familiar, of the lawyer swallowing the oyster, while he liberally presents the empty shells to the contending litigants. But the fable has been much misunderstood. Some are malicious enough to suppose that the rich morsel thus ‘tucked in,’ as the above enigmatical couplet expresses it, represents the *corpus litis*—the whole matter in controversy; which is thought to find its way somehow into the pocket of the astute man of law: the luckless adversaries being left to pay the costs—the hard shells, as they might not inaptly consider them. But this is all a mistake; a weak invention of the enemy; of some one who probably has never tasted the luxury of a lawsuit; which no doubt is almost as enjoyable as the oyster itself. The truth is that the story merely exemplifies the extreme fondness of the lawyer for the delicate mollusc: who having swallowed it in a moment of forgetfulness, overlooking his friends, redeems the error as far as he can, by giving to each a shell, still redolent of its delicious flavour. But whether the subject of the foregoing fable be real or allegorical, there is no doubt that the oyster itself is held in high esteem by the whole legal fraternity, and for that matter, by their clients too. Nor are they singular in their tastes. In all times and in all countries, at least where it was attainable, it has been with all an especial favourite. Gentle and simple—noble and ignoble—the wise and the otherwise—the mighty and the mean—from the great Imperial glutton of Rome, who united in himself the two last classes, provoking his exhausted appetite, and renewing the capacity of a surfeited stomach by emetics; down to the veriest rough that frequents the saloons of New York—all have alike enjoyed this rich, juicy, light, and nutritious dainty. Whether inhabitants of the now lost Lucrine lake, or of the seas which wash the Circæan promontory—or ‘natives’ of the coasts of England, which won the highest commendations from the Roman gastronomist and still retain the proud pre-eminence—or aborigines of the new world, reposing on their terraqueous beds in the waters of Shediac, hereafter, it may be, to become as classical—wherever bountiful nature has planted them, man has detected their abode; dragging them reluctantly from their deep solitude into notice; for modest merit however silent and retired, is in their case at least, sure to be soon discovered and properly appreciated. Formerly however it seems to have been thought, that secure in their limestone fortress, with the ocean for a moat, they had no danger to fear, and no other enemy to encounter, than our own voracious species—and that left to themselves their natural production would keep pace with the wants of mankind. Very little attention was therefore paid to them—except to remove them, when already full grown, from the place of their nativity, to fatten in new pastures provided for the purpose. But now men are beginning to consult for their further supply and increase; and have taken upon themselves the office of a sort of wet nurse for these interesting foundlings of the seas. Imitating the philanthropists and benefactors of our race, though it must be admitted from somewhat less disinterested motives, they have established for these young aquatics, infant schools, and seminaries for their after education, till fit to leave their adopted homes and take their places in society at the tables of the learned and the wise.

To drop into plain matters of fact, pisciculture, or the artificial culture of both fish and shell-fish, has within a few years past attracted much attention; and has been followed by marked success in England and other countries. Ova of the salmon for instance, have been taken as far as Australia;

and though young fry, the length overcome; wonder, fi-h plying luxur There is no duce the Tu attempt to fi to the Oyste culture has but more la can do little accounts of which may subject dese The Oyst The annual lions! but i maturity. E well suppose at the same is asserted, nute bivalv armed from out their inf tiny young about in the they attach near at har agitation of weed or oth prey of thei destruction; waters. Al the new col nature has young oyste t-pure whic their dimes own accord. These art carried on, English tern are formed mud or stilt tertwined. objects of ter are ren operations c forth in due called into selves, the s hood of the cile, prepar course when a sheltered commodatic poles or stal thing of the of the new home, will labour of p market; ar Some cauti largely on t hausted, yo too of the c