

THE BULLFROG.

*Nec sumit aut ponit securus,
Arbitrio popularis auro.—Hor.*

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DR. TUPPER ON FEDERATION.

DR. TUPPER's task at the recent meeting was as light as it was palatable. Upon him devolved the pleasing duty of telling his fellow citizens what fine fellows they were, how they have advanced of late years, and how they may still advance, provided their talents obtain a wider field than that wherein they have hitherto been exercised. DR. TUPPER's patriotism wisely ignored all minor considerations; greatness was his theme, and he expatiated thereon to an extent somewhat overpowering. His argument was, simply this—We are loyal, prosperous, and talented in an unusual degree,—we are sufficiently advanced to become part and parcel of a great nation,—an Intercolonial Railway would materially benefit our commerce, but we cannot have such a railway unless we consent to throw in our lot with Canada,—we want population,—Federation will ensure it,—we are insecure,—Federation will render us formidable,—Federation is no longer a choice, it is a necessity.

To say that delay in this matter must prove fatal to our interests, is an assertion which we are by no means inclined to endorse. Why should we be dictated to by Canada concerning the fit time for Union? Are we to seek proposals for a new form of government at the hands of those whose inability to govern themselves is apparent to all,—are we to accept the Intercolonial Railway as a bribe for eradicating from the Canadian constitution the seeds of political dissolution? An elevating compact forsooth, and one well calculated to enhance our *amour propre*! We know with what feelings men regarded those who accepted Irish peerages at the hands of Lord CASTLE-REAGH, and shall we, from mere sordid avarice, allow Canada to tell us that, upon our prompt obedience to her wishes depends our only chance of a railway? Canada's language to us, as expressed by DR. TUPPER, is simply this—"We're in a muddle more than usually hopeless; your intervention can alone save our credit; help us out of our difficulties and we'll build our portion of the Intercolonial Railway." When we look at the actual meaning of such an overture, we can well understand the prudence of endeavouring to conceal it in a rhapsody of fine words. Strip the proposal of those tinsel ornaments which DR. TUPPER uses with such brilliant effect, and we feel somewhat ashamed at having even listened to such a scheme. We maintain that we are not yet ripe for Union, and that by Federation just at present, our public works would suffer rather than advance. It were childish to compare the different Provinces of British America with the four countries constituting the parent soil, or to argue about Canada and Nova Scotia, as we argue about England and Scotland, or England and Ireland. Mere Union never materially advanced the public works of the integral portions of the mother country, nor will Union with Canada advance the public works throughout this Province. Union, backed by an existing conservative element works wonders; Union, without such an element is comparatively worthless. And by a conservative element,

we mean something which these Provinces do not possess,—an influential body of men raised above the necessity of working for their livelihood, and anxious to cultivate, apart from the turmoil of business, the desire of benefiting their fellow men. The calm abiding influence of such a spirit of conservatism throughout every portion of the United Kingdom is, to our thinking, the true secret of Britain's moral greatness. The neighbouring States acquired greatness on a totally different principle, but our new empire is to become great on the English principle, while some portions of it yet lack that conservative element upon the existence of which so much depends. Constituted as our society is at present, we greatly fear that Federation (even if it would benefit us commercially as much as DR. TUPPER supposes) would not exalt us as a people. Which of us would accept the riches of an American State on condition that we also accepted the American character? No, there are higher considerations than mere railway compacts to be considered, when we come to talk of establishing a great empire. But, says DR. TUPPER, "There is no man who understands the character of Colonial institutions but knows and feels that they might as well attempt to keep a man in the swaddling-clothes of infancy, and expect him to discharge the functions of manhood, as to assume that a Colony, at the period of advancement to which these Colonies have arrived," &c. &c. What advancement have we arrived at? Does DR. TUPPER wish it to be understood that an increasing trade is the one thing needful whereon to found a great empire. If the "almighty dollar" is the one and only true test of advancement, we have certainly advanced; but we are inclined to look for higher and more noble advancement,—while we tithe the amish and cummin, we must not neglect matters somewhat weightier. Let us look at the way the law is carried out. A man is stabbed to death in a public street, and those concerned in the matter are not even arrested! Two or three men disappear from our midst, and for weeks no one can find out anything about them! Magistrates, whose business it is to prevent salmon poaching, are themselves the chief poachers! Look at our poor house, look at our jails, look at the dwellings of our poorer neighbours, &c, and then say whether we are in an advanced state! "The people of this country have an amount of personal liberty and security that cannot be found under any other system of government." Very true!—the liberty accorded to homicides, poachers, and smugglers is undeniable! But DR. TUPPER tells us we are in a highly advanced state, and fit for immediate greatness; and "sure, he is an honorable man." But why are our public institutions in the state they are? Because people are too busy to look after them, because we lack that conservative power which must ever be the one essential element of greatness under the British form of constitution. Now, if DR. TUPPER can prove that Federation will ever produce this conservative element, we shall admit the possibility of a future great empire under the constitution proposed. No

amount of dollars can produce it, unless we change the laws concerning division of property, and regulate its possession with reference to primogeniture. In fact, to be a great people under the English form of Government, we must become more English than we are at present. We may, or may not grow rich by Federation, but it will never transform us into a great nation. The bubble of "greatness" so laboriously blown by the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY has we think been fairly burst, and it only remains for us to note such portions of that gentleman's speech as relate to defence. DR. TUPPER says, "It is stated broadly in the British Press that the policy of the British Government is to take every man out of Canada," and then, very sensibly remarks that we ought to do our best towards defending ourselves. This Province has already done a good deal in the way of organizing militia, volunteers, &c, whereas Canada has done comparatively little in this respect. There can be no doubt that Canada, as was formerly remarked by SIR R. PEEL, is England's weak point. For many years the Canadians evinced an apathy regarding their own defence but ill calculated to awaken much sympathy at home. But, prior to the commencement of the war between North and South, the defence of Canada was a matter about which Englishmen seldom troubled their heads, nor was it until the Trent affair was noised throughout the country that any serious apprehensions were entertained. Then came the departure of the Guards from London, and the Canadian government proposed that Canadians should arm, for which offence the latter ousted their Ministry, and refused to do anything of the kind. From that moment English feeling was aroused. How did matters progress? Canada did something towards self defence, but not so much as was fairly expected of her; then came the Union question, and ultimately the scheme before us. We cannot think that DR. TUPPER has given the defence question (as a monetary consideration) the attention to which it is fairly entitled. Canada is prepared to grant one million of dollars yearly for purposes of defence, and DR. TUPPER and his co-delegates admit that under the proposed Federation Scheme, British Soldiers are supposed to be withdrawn. Now, the English money annually sunk in B. N. America on behalf of British defence, is at least six million dollars, which sum we lose when we undertake our own defence. The annual loss sustained therefore upon the item of defence is not merely the extra money voted by the several Provinces, but likewise the six million dollars per annum. This fact seems to have been overlooked by those absorbed in the contemplation of some chimerical future. But, if, instead of voting one million of dollars, Canada were prepared to vote, annually, treble that sum, England would be satisfied, and leave B. N. America such Imperial defence as she now possesses. In this case England would rejoice in the possession of Canada, and would aid her more cheerfully than she does at present. We, as British Americans, would have to contribute towards raising two extra millions, but by so doing we should secure a yearly influx of six millions otherwise lost to us for ever.

THE FEDERATION SCHEME.—MR. McCULLY.

The policy was perhaps a wise one, which dictated to the two leading Journals a total abstinence from all arguments on the merits or demerits of the Federation Scheme. Their managers reasoned wisely, that a great effect might be produced upon the country by a sensational burst of eloquence—argument heaped upon argument—in the Temperance

Hall. Messrs. McCULLY, ARCHIBALD, and TUPPER speaking unanimously *ex Cathedra* from a common platform are naturally more competent to produce a desired effect than rambling articles in different papers which may contain, severally, minor sneers against their heretofore political opponents. The Delegates have spoken, and we must confess that their exposition of the proposed scheme tends materially to lower it in our estimation, and still further to force upon us the conviction that it is totally unsuited to the present requirements of Nova Scotia. Let us consider Mr. McCULLY's speech. The sudden indisposition of Mr. HENRY forced upon MR. McCULLY's shoulders the double duty of opening the subject—a feat easily performed after dinner several months ago—and further, of combating the arguments urged against the scheme. His exordium, though somewhat heavy, was excellent in its way and only invites comment by a striking contradiction in which the speaker indulged—Mr. McCULLY said—

"In consequence of circumstances over which *Nova Scotia* at least had no control it (the Confederate Scheme) has been forced upon the attention of the country at the present time."

After a fulsome tribute to the capabilities of British North America, and the usual clap-trap about Union, is strength—Union a necessity &c., &c. "We are therefore in this position, *compelled by no external pressure* but looking at the prospect of the future (? as every child does) the public men of this Province have undertaken to deal with this question calmly and dispassionately," &c., &c.

Now, even in the opening of the subject, which unfortunately fell to Mr. McCULLY's lot, how fearfully that gentleman breaks down! "Circumstances over which *Nova Scotia* has no control" force her into an Union, and at the same time *Nova Scotia* is gravely assured that no "external pressure" is employed in forcing upon her the Scheme adopted by the Delegates. The head of the Liberal party may possibly mean that the word *external* should be used in implied contradiction to the suggestive word *internal* pressure—viz, that "if our *Nova Scotian* Politicians," &c. If this be the case we must apologize for a lack of perspicuity and a blindness to the low standard of *Nova Scotian* politics. The contradiction between the two sentences must however be apparent to all. To find a difference between "*circumstances over which Nova Scotia has no control*"—and "*external pressure*" were difficult indeed. The difference between external and internal pressure, upon the provincial position of a Delegate is easily imagined. Exordiums, however, are often vague, and we will lay no stress upon this small point but proceed to consider the other portions of Mr. McCULLY's speech.

The Orator next proceeded to the assertion that Union is necessary. No one will deny that Union of some kind is desirable. This as Mr. McCULLY says, he "largely assumes." The advantages of a Federal over Legislative Union are next considered.

We must confess an astonishment great in proportion to the greatness of Mr. McCULLY's Provincial reputation, when we read his definition of a Legislative Union. The absence of knowledge, not only of history, but of the existing constitution of Great Britain, displayed by the leader of the Opposition should make *Nova Scotians* extremely careful in their acceptance of his assertions as undeniable. Mr. McCULLY thus defines a Legislative Union:

"It means, if I understand the term aright, that there shall be an uniform system of Laws and constitutions, that the same laws which exist in Newfoundland shall be in force at the Red River. * * * Now I have heard it remarked that a Legislative union would be more conducive to the in-

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terests of these Provinces than any other, and it has been argued here and there, that we ought to have such a Union as exists in Great Britain."

Is it possible that the speaker was unaware of the fact, that though Scotland is represented in the General Parliament, Scotch law is as unlike that of England as the law of Otaheite is dissimilar to that of Nova Scotia, (take, for instance, the marriage, divorce, and trial by jury laws). A Legislative Union, however exists between these countries inasmuch as a common Legislature rules the destinies of Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr. McCULLY continues his argument thus:—After shewing that Nova Scotia is amply represented in the proposed General Parliament; (represented in the Upper House doubly in regard to population,) he contrasts her position with that of Ireland, or Scotland entering into a permanent Union with England. The analogy we consider totally inapplicable, but since it has been adopted by Mr. McCULLY, we must accept the comparison and argue it upon its own merits. The leader of the Opposition spoke thus:—"Now, let me ask your attention to the nature of the Union in that country. We have been told that the proportion of representation assigned to Nova Scotia in the House of Commons of the Confederation (19 members) is too insignificant—that Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island, and Newfoundland will be largely overborne by the preponderating influence that Canada would have. I have taken a little pains to consider what the condition of Scotland was at the time of Union with England.—"At this time, 1706, England, with a population of six millions, had 514 members in the Commons, whilst Scotland, with one million of people had only 45;—that is to say, whilst Scotland was, in point of population, one-sixth, yet, in reference to representation she received one-twelfth. Again, in the House of Peers, whilst England had 185 peers, Scotland had 16."

Incorporated, or Legislative Union matters little. The representatives of the three countries met at Westminster and local Parliaments were abolished as cumbersome and unnecessary. The argument which rests upon the paucity of representative power of Scotland and Ireland in the Union of Great Britain and Ireland recoils upon Mr. McCULLY. That Gentleman is "hoist with his own petard" when he attempts thus to urge the value of Federation against a Legislative Union. Ireland and Scotland were content to sacrifice much: to come into an Union partially represented, rather than question the advantage of an Union with England altogether. Nova Scotia, on the contrary, by Mr. McCULLY'S own shewing can only be expected to enter the Confederation Scheme on the promise of an undue representation power in the great Parliament at Ottawa.

We now come to the latter portion of Mr. McCULLY'S speech. After arguing fluently, if not successfully against a Legislative Union, and exposing his private views on the cause of the Civil War in the United States, the leader of the Opposition remarked as follows—

"I am quite ready to admit that when this subject first presented itself to my mind, I was inclined to favor a Legislative Union, but when we came to consider the difficulties step by step," &c., &c.

Mr. McCULLY indulges in an eulogium on the pride and national feeling of the Lower Canadians, who, as he just before suggested, forced him to the conclusion that a Legislative Union, though desirable, was at present impossible.

We ask our readers, is this a fair way of treating so great a question? Mr. McCULLY argued generally (with little success) in favor of Federation versus a Legislative Union. He then admits that he personally desires a Legislative

Union, but finds it impracticable, and concludes with fulsome praise of that obstructive Lower Canadian population which renders the present scheme, as Mr. McCULLY suggests perfect *Credat Juleus*.

MR. ARCHIBALD'S SPEECH.

One of the greatest errors into which the Nova Scotian public appears liable to fall is this. They seem inclined to imagine that the Delegates are justified in assuming before this province the position of special pleaders for the scheme which they advocate. Nothing can be more injurious to the interests of Nova Scotia than such an assumption. This position once granted to the delegates it becomes their duty—as is the custom with special pleaders—to urge its acceptance on the public by fair means or foul—to show its advantages and conceal its disadvantages—to use their intimate acquaintance with the scheme as a cloak against honest but partially informed criticism: to check inquiry, and if inquiry becomes importunate, to crush it by assertions of difficulties overcome at Quebec and a general appeal to their former political honesty. If our delegates were to be treated merely as counsels for the defence of the Union Scheme such a mode of procedure would be fair enough. Their position however in Quebec was far higher than that of special pleaders. They there represented Nova Scotia and we will hope did their best to further her interests. Why then on their return to Halifax should they lower themselves into rabid advocates of a scheme which they agreed to indeed in Quebec but which it was generally agreed should be rejected or accepted by the populations of the various provinces there represented? The delegates after all were merely sent to Quebec to consider whether any union was practicable—and if such was the case to report fairly and honestly to their constituents the results of their deliberations. It is plainly their duty to Nova Scotia to point out, whether by speech or by writing, the disadvantages of the scheme when they elaborate its advantages: to conceal nothing and being as yet only statesmen in Nova Scotia to treat the subject from a Nova Scotian point of view. Dreams of a United British North America may be very cheering, and we hope some day to see the great Union effected, but such dreams can afford no excuse to our politicians for concealing the disadvantages and arguing the benefits of the scheme which has been suggested at Quebec. Their business is with the present and a sensible population is not prone to dreaming. Honesty in the end must prove the best policy, and we must confess that it was somewhat scarce in the rostrum of the Temperance Hall on Friday the 9th inst.

Of all the speeches made at the recent meeting of the Delegates that of Mr. Archibald was at once the most temperate and the most plausible. Graceful language, a ready flow of figures, and an absence of offensive claptrap distinguish it forcibly from the illogical rhodomontades of Messrs. Tupper and McCully. The financial portion of the Confederation scheme is its most important feature. Since no real Union is in contemplation, but rather a careful bargain between Canada and the Lower Provinces—free trade and an Intercolonial line offered by the former, and a Union which will loose Canada's political deadlock by the latter—the fiscal portion of the agreement assumes a gigantic importance. Mr. Archibald was peculiarly fitted for his task. He made figures as interesting to his audience as figures can be. He made figures interesting to the opponents of Federation by a couple of false calculations or perhaps a dexterous concealment of figures which might lower the Federation Scheme in the eyes of the Nova Scotian public. Here for example is a little torturing of figures which we consider totally unfair

In the charges on the United Provinces Mr. Archibald sets down, as was decided by the convention, the following sum devoted to the local governments at a rate of 80 cents per head on the whole population \$2,790,000—this is the correct sum which is due at 80 cents per head for the present population of British North America 3,480,000 souls. A little later however when receipts are in consideration Mr. Archibald gravely asserts that since in 1866 the population will be 4,000,000, the taxation upon each head will amount to only three dollars. Does Mr. Archibald really imagine that the Provinces will increase by half a million in population in a year and a half? If he is not foolish enough to indulge in such wild hopes why attempt to deceive his audience by assuming our population in one case and another far larger when it suits his advocacy of the Confederation Scheme to do so? This is special pleading indeed! Mr. Archibald jumps at another assumption. He bases his financial argument on the supposition that the Federal government once established will be able to obtain money at 5 per cent to pay off the existing debts of both upper and lower provinces which at present pay 6 per cent. This may possibly be effected after a few years have elapsed. It savours however of unfair cajolery to speak of so chimerical a consummation as in the present grasp of British North America. This is dreaming indeed! We should also feel more confidence in Mr. Archibald's statement of accounts if he had not omitted all mention of a sum of \$63,000 to be paid annually for ten years to New Brunswick. This is perhaps a small omission but hardly smaller than some sources of revenue on which Mr. Archibald laid much stress. Let us now see how our balance sheets would stand after making the few corrections of which we have spoken—

Interest on old debt at 6 per cent . . .	\$4,965,000
“ on new debt at 6 per cent . . .	1,050,000
Charges for collection at 1 per cent . . .	60,150
Paid to Local Governments } (inhab. 4,000,000.) }	3,200,000
“ to Newfoundland	150,000
“ to New Brunswick	63,000
Expenses of General Government . . .	4,367,688

\$13,855,838

This, assuming the population to be as high even as 4,000,000 will give a taxation of at least \$3.45 per head. It would thus appear that instead of the extra 40 cents per head for which according to Mr. Archibald, this Union is to be accomplished, the real increase of taxation which it must cause is 85 cents per head. It may be worth it—we hope it is so. Whether however it be so or not, nothing can justify a delegate well acquainted with every detail of the scheme in falsifying either through carelessness or design the figures which render it acceptable or distasteful to Nova Scotia. We beg Nova Scotians to consider a moment how far their taxation will be increased by Union and how much of the surplus taxation will be applied to the primary necessities of such a Union as Nova Scotia is led to believe she is about to enter. Her taxation is increased by a third—85 cents per head—and for what? Is it for self defence? NO. Since only £250,000 are voted altogether for that purpose, nearly half of which sum is expended on defence under the present system. Is it the Railroad? NO. The real fact of the matter is this. The taxation per head in Canada is reduced from over 5 dollars to something under 4 dollars. Of course it would not be wise for a delegate pleading his cause to make this fact public. Honesty however should have led to its publication. We have said enough to show that the whole scheme is not laid before the people by their representatives. That these latter treat it as a cause to be defended by fair means or foul, and leave to those necessarily less intimately informed of its

details the difficult task of seeking out its defects. This as we have said is not fair by Nova Scotia. Finally are the farmers of our county districts to pay a third more to the state per annum, that their markets may be spoiled by Canada? Are our merchants to be placed at a similar disadvantage, for the sake of a railway which, had our government acted honestly to New Brunswick, might have been secured last spring? and can the whole country believe that by a general additional expenditure of £100,000 per annum, their security from foreign invasion is secured.

MANIAS.

JOHN BULL is commonly represented as an easy going, plethoric, unimpassioned, matter-of-fact sort of individual, combining in his own person a strong under current of common sense, with a certain prosaic utterance which foreigners rarely interpret aright. We are inclined to dissent from this doctrine, and affirm that our race is beyond all doubt the maddest and most originally eccentric race on earth. Travel where we will, we find traditional records of Anglo-Saxon eccentricity in undertakings, dangerous in themselves, and utterly useless to the world in general. For scaling perpendicular peaks, for performing pedestrian feats in “marching order” under the most tropical suns, for riding full gallop down the steep side of a mountain, for these, and for other exploits equally fool-hardy and ridiculous, the Anglo-Saxon race is proverbially celebrated. But perhaps, as a people, our chiefest peculiarity lies in our readiness to adopt at a moment's notice some prevalent mania. The English upper classes are never without a mania of one sort or another, which for the time being is, to a certain extent, a decided nuisance. The mania which prevailed, some ten years back, for collars so contrived as to keep their wearers in a constant state of physical torture, was one of the silliest of modern times. Then we had “potebi-mania,” which set all the young ladies of England agunning transparent devices within transparent mantel-piece ornaments. Then came Archery, the mania for which condemned a number of good fellows to spend half their days picking up arrows, and listening to feminine squabbles concerning “best goods,” &c. Perhaps the Croquet mania was that beneath whose influence Englishwomen most ignored the wisdom of the injunction,—let your moderation be known in all things. At all hours, and at all seasons (save the London season), the dream of English society tacitly resigned its young men and maidens, its old men and children, to the all absorbing delights consequent upon knocking colored balls beneath a series of metal arches. Almost contemporaneously with the Croquet mania, society took to “sawing” and “carving,” and half the young ladies of England became amateur cabinet-makers and polishers. “Good day, Miss A., how d-ye-do?”—“Quite well, Mr. S., thanks,—but you must excuse my shaking hands with you, as I'm all over varnish mixture!” This sort of thing went on for some time, and was to a certain extent a nuisance, inasmuch as the smell of turpentine was conducive towards head-ache, colic, &c., and delicate young girls stooped longer over their “sawing” apparatus than was good for their health. The mania for filling up Photographic Albums in the shortest time possible, prevailed to an alarming extent, and the mania which attributed to every casual acquaintance a facility for writing impromptu verses in Albums of another kind, was an intolerable nuisance,—a nuisance almost as great as that which followed a mania for sensation novels, now happily on the decline. When it freezes in England two nights consecutively, the skating mania prevails to an extent which invariably results in a sad loss of life. Notwithstanding all the precautions of the Humane Society, and the various warning beacons erected wherever the ice is “dangerous,”

scarce a winter every sheet of choly fact by London accords the London park Londoners another opportunity their skates skating man can reasonable winter. We take skating long spell of year we can are almost e hurry upon a warning, i several indiv in time again prove highly thing is cert taken strong indeed, it w class of ind rarely go be affair of our thoughts the consideration necessarily point where hardly fair t the fact that Equally un pondering t him that,— Poor man! time: to hi dency. Ho tendencies vided people —as indeed

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scarce a winter elapses without half-a-dozen fatal accidents on every sheet of water within the metropolis. This is a melancholy fact, but we can readily understand the eagerness evinced by London skaters for a recreation which the English climate accords them so rarely. When once the ornamental waters of the London parks are frozen over, no precautions can restrain the Londoners from endangering their lives. They may not have another opportunity throughout the winter, so they buckle on their skates and take their chance. Now, oddly enough, the skating mania is as strong in Halifax as in London, albeit we can reasonably calculate upon some four months skating every winter. We confess ourselves surprised. Why should we not take skating as a matter of course, seeing we are as sure of a long spell of it, as we are sure of a long winter? Year after year we can skate to our heart's content; yet, year after year we are almost childishly anxious regarding the exact hour we may hurry upon the ice! One poor child has already perished, and a warning, in the shape of a very cold bath, has been given to several individuals—not children. Whether we will be warned in time against accidents which may prove fatal, and which must prove highly uncomfortable, remains to be seen. However, one thing is certain, the skating mania has within the past week taken strong hold upon the minds of young persons of either sex: indeed, it would seem that there is among us a tolerably large class of individuals whose thoughts at this period of the year rarely go beyond Steele's Pond. Well, let it be so,—it is no affair of ours—let mankind and womankind indulge whatever thoughts they please. But,—why the class of individuals under consideration should take it for granted that their thoughts must necessarily be the thoughts of every one around them,—is a point whereon we cannot altogether make up our minds. It is hardly fair to obtrude upon a man, deep in his house accounts, the fact that, “the smaller pond will almost bear, but not quite.” Equally unfair is it, to rush up to a respectable paterfamilias, pondering the pros and cons of the Federation Scheme, and tell him that,—“it's all right, the thermometer is going down!” Poor man! His mental troubles should be respected at such a time: to him everything seems invested with a downward tendency. However, due allowance must be made for the impulsive tendencies of youth, and the skating mania is harmless, provided people will not venture on the ice until it is perfectly safe—as indeed it generally is for about one-third of the year.

✕ RETURN OF THE DELEGATES.

LAST SCENE.

FROM AN UNPUBLISHED FARCE BY THE CLERK OF THE PEACE.

! Scene.—*The property room of the Temperance Hall. Eragments of Farini's spangles, broken paraphernalia of the escamoteur Simmons, and damaged models of the human frame once the property of Professor O'Leary, lie scattered about the apartment. Other curious relics of exhibitions once calculated to attract the public eye, and extract dollars from the public purse, are seen on all sides.*

Enter the P——l S——y and the A——y G——l.

A. G. *Sinking into a chair.* “I can't speak.”

P. S. *gaily.*—You have just done so—this nervousness must be overcome—a people waits upon your voice.

A. G. *dolorously.*—I tell you I can't do it. I hear the voice of the enemy outside! Listen!

A voice is heard outside, quoting from the Chronicle, of Oct. 11th.

But hark! did you ever hear such soft sweet music! List, list, it is HENRY and TUPPER, and all the rest of them, changed to wee folk. How delicious the music! How dulcet the strains! And the words, here they are:

Won't you walk into my parlor
Said the spider to the fly—

By Jove I will walk in.

Enter the L——r of the O——n. Good evening gentlemen! A great moment is at hand—Ha! The A——y G——!

is unwell! A National misfortune! He will doubtless, however, do the best he can to perform his part of the programme.

A. G. *Moderately.* I am of no importance. You yourself, have called me a ponderous speaker.

L. o. O. Never my dear Sir. Never! How comes it honored Sir, that you are so modest!

A. G. I pray you pardon me, I cannot speak.

P. S. *Authoritatively.* What the A——y G——l says is but too true, we love his services to-night—turning to A——y G——l—You had better go to bed.—Quiet is all that you require.—Exit A. G. Very sick indeed poor man! We must now consider who is to open up the Confederation Scheme. You Sir, I fancy, will do it admirably.

L. o. O. Too much has already been forced upon us Opposition people. All the showy parts of the speechifying you reserved to yourself and your sick friend. We have already too many disagreeable facts to combat—and figures to torture to our ends.

P. S. I only offer you, that which you desire. The opportunity of a rhetorical display, in which close reasoning is totally unnecessary. Come, come!—by a voluntary effort give us a living proof that you are loyal.

L. o. O. *rather pleased.* Well, since you murder Shakespeare, I will for once, follow a bad example. I do not like the office, but sith I'm entered in this cause so far, pricked to it by no foolish honesty but love of self, I will go on. I will do my best. The people shout. The great moment is come—remember our pass-word—OTTAWA.

A period of 3 hours elapses—after which re-enter P. S. the L. o. O., and the Speaker of Finance. They seat themselves and a long pause ensues.

S. o. F. *yawning.* This is rather stupid. I shall go home. You two gentlemen have always lots to say to each other.—Exit S. o. F.

P. S. A good speaker, but totally wrong in his figures.

L. o. O. *angrily.* Why did not you undertake that most difficult part of the exhibition? You are pledged to bring in this Scheme as a government measure.

P. S. *coaxingly.* “Surely my dear friend you must be aware that clap-trap is more pleasing to our people than argument. Since our Scheme is of equal interest to both Opposition and Government, and will be brought before the people in the spring as a Government measure; it is imperative that at this meeting the Government should produce the greatest impression. Do you understand me? We have both worked in a common cause and you spoke very well to-night. Our impression on the public mind has been made, and we may now retire with satisfaction to rest. Your history by-the-bye —”

L. o. O. *petulantly.* Before we retire, I would ask that the Annapolis election be no longer delayed —”

P. S. I was saying that your historical information requires refreshment. Mrs. Markham's work is admirable and very simple. Any child —”

L. o. O. *Avard Longley,* I understand, will not, risk his seat. If you do not issue the writ due since Mr. Johnsons retirement, I shall expose the unconstitutional conduct of the Government. Mr. Ray —”

P. S. Is ready. I understand. Mr. Reed is not ready. I shall wait a little longer.

L. o. O. Do so at your peril! Thank Heavens our connection here terminates. We have hitherto joined with Ottawa in our eyes—we have done our best to secure a place there. Our party made two speeches to your one—Good night Sir. I go to expose your unconstitutional conduct. Impeachment—imprisonment—a bloody death may follow.

P. S. *imploringly.* Don't be silly; look at these spangles on the floor. Once Farini's, I imagine. All the world is a stage, and this is only the green-room. Our stage dear friend is Ottawa.

L. o. O. *reassured by the imploring tone of the P. S.—and feeling his own strength.*—Ottawa, yes! but suppose Ottawa unattainable! My course is clear. Your behaviour in this great Federal coalition I fully expected. To-night finishes our engagement, and I am thankful. Ottawa we may never reach, but I shall soon turn you out of office. You have degraded your office. Jobbery—bribery —”

P. S. *furiously*. Your words are actionable, were but a witness present!

L. o. O. *continuing quietly*—I say Sir, that if I think Federation is likely to fail either through New Brunswick's Opposition or that of Prince Edward's Island I shall agitate for a dissolution of the present Parliament. The Political act and the Annapolis scandal will suffice to close your political career for ever in this Province.

P. S. *hiding his face in his hands*. Don't.

L. o. O. *triumphantly*. Duty requires it. If Federation fails, what have I to look for but power in Nova Scotia? I will get it. I must get it. Our private compact is over. Go and lecture at Kentville!—Annapolis if you like! Your choice of pegs for popularity seems foolish. Do as you like—I shall call for a general election! I, a professed supporter of Federation. I will have justice done! Mr Annand shall oppose it in this Hall.—The people shall hear both sides of the question. Go home Sir! go home! Bless me, the lights are going out!

P. S. and L. o. O. *grope their way towards the door*.—P. S. falls over an obstruction. P. S. *pitiably*. Ah me, I have fallen over a body!

L. o. O.—*striking a match*. Only a wax image Sir. This is a revelation. That wax image represents the Federation Scheme! Ha. Ha!

P. S. *Desponding and sitting on the ground*. You were not won't to talk so—

Enter a large body of Liberal Members—who carry off the L. o. O. from what they describe "a futile condition."

Chorus of Liberal Members.—Bravo Sir, you spoke your weakest in the Hall to-night.—Good man and true—you shall surely have your reward!

SCENE CLOSES.

Communications, &c.

It is distinctly to be borne in mind that we do not, by inserting letters convey any opinion favourable to their contents. We open our columns to all, without leaning to any; and thus supply a channel for the publication of all shades, to be found in no other journal in Nova Scotia.

No notice whatever will be taken of anonymous communications. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

BERMUDA PACKETS.

To the Editor of the "BULLFROG."

SIR,—

Owing to the great facilities afforded by steam communication, the present is a travelling age, and numerous companies have sprung into existence the object of which is to meet the requirement of the public in this respect. Conspicuous among those, which have contributed to the public comfort and convenience, are the Messrs Cunard & Co., whose long established line between this port and England has earned for them a just reputation for speed, and the safety and accommodation of passengers. A traveller by this line, although he may lack some minor comforts, yet has a comfortable berth, sufficient space for personal luggage, a good table, a spacious saloon, and room for exercise, and these are all one can in reason demand during a short voyage. The Messrs Cunard & Co., have however, in addition to this line, branch steamers which run between this port, St. John's Newfoundland, and Bermuda and St. Thomas, and the writer wishes he could say as much with regard to the comfort and convenience of travellers by this line.

For the benefit of those who may be unacquainted with the steamers between Halifax and Bermuda, and who may contemplate a voyage in this direction, I wish to offer a few remarks concerning the comfort and accommodation they may expect.

The steamer *Alpha* left this port for Bermuda on Tuesday morning. This vessel has a saloon on deck for first class passengers, which contains seven state-rooms, affording berth accommodation for 24 persons. She sailed with 80 first-class passengers, besides a considerable number of second class. How, it may be asked, was accommodation provided for this number. Temporary berths were fitted up in all the state-rooms, large enough to admit of the encroachment, and the saloon, which is

supposed to be set apart as a dining and sitting room, is converted into a bed-cabin affording 16 berths. Even with this additional accommodation only 52 berths were provided. Where the remaining 28 passengers were stowed is a problem, which can be best explained by the Messrs Cunard & Co.—the writer cannot attempt to solve it.

Now let any one picture to himself the amount of comfort to be enjoyed by a passenger during this trip. A state-room, not larger than one which in the Liverpool line, would contain two berths, contains here six, for the use of whose inmates one *trash-basin* is provided, and the only space for necessary luggage is the cabin floor, rendering it impossible to move or even stand. These are filled with ladies and children whose helpless state from sea sickness renders them peculiar objects of pity. The Saloon, which should be kept clean and pure as a Dining and Sitting apartment, is at night converted into a bed-cabin, and its occupants must in the morning, whether sick or well, turn out of their berths to make room for the necessary meals, without any accommodation whatever for washing and dressing, leaving behind them the impure and tainted atmosphere which their sleep has produced. Let him imagine, to wait upon and attend to this crowd, three stewards and one Stewardess, with no medical officer to attend in case of sickness and emergency; and let him furthermore picture the deck of the vessel crowded with thirty head of cattle and forty sheep, and he will have such a scene of discomfort and misery as seldom attends that much dreaded evil, a sea voyage. For the privilege of enduring this misery, passengers are charged eight pounds sterling a head, which is at the rate of two pounds per diem, the same as is paid on the Liverpool line. It would have been at least humane and just not to have carried more passengers than the vessel could accommodate, especially as the full passage money was demanded. Now, although the accommodations by this line may have been sufficient for ordinary requirements the amount of travelling this year, owing to the war and the epidemic fever at Bermuda has been unprecedented. The Messrs Cunard must, however, have been perfectly aware of its prospective amount, and as they have for years enjoyed a very liberal share of the public patronage, and could well afford it, it was their bounden duty to have made provision to meet this unusual traffic. They could even upon this occasion have sent the *Martin* to Newfoundland, and have despatched both the *Alpha* and *Delta* to Bermuda, dividing the passengers between the two. But, if the same amount can be made by one vessel, let the public look out for themselves, they are helplessly at the mercy of a monopoly. I very strongly suspect that if the *Alpha* had sailed from an English port the owners would have rendered themselves liable to prosecution under the Passenger Act. Are the Messrs Cunard prepared to produce the necessary certificate, to show that the steamer *Alpha* can carry 80 cabin passengers, and that the proper number of boats are provided in case of accident. And has the Health Officer of the Port inspected the vessel to see what number she can convey consistently with health and safety, as I presume is his duty. The Cunard Company have already lost one boat on the Bermuda reefs and it is fearful to contemplate the probable loss of life which would result, should any disaster occur to the *Alpha*.

If the proposed Confederation should confer no further benefit on Halifax than bringing sufficient traffic to this port to induce a company to start an opposition line to the West Indies, it would confer a material benefit on the public.

Your obedient servant,

VIATOR.

To the Editor of the "BULLFROG"

SIR—

Observing in your paper, to which I am a subscriber, a desire to expose abuses that exist in your City affairs, and feeling that in this section of the Province we are in the same situation, I trust you will lend us your aid by giving publicity to this communication in the hope of inducing those who possess the power to take steps to have the matter thoroughly investigated. I feel satisfied that very many of my fellow townsmen must with myself lament the disgraceful situation in which we have

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lately appeared before the public. On the morning of Friday the 2nd inst., a boat containing five soldiers of the Royal Artillery (deserters from St. John, N. B.) in full uniform, arms &c. landed in Granville, on the Bay Shore about seven miles from this place. They were assisted in landing, proceeded to the nearest house, where they procured plain clothes, and leaving their uniforms and arms behind them, proceeded up the Mountain to the main post road. There they lingered about for some time, and on Sunday, as I am informed, spent the day near the residence of a Justice of the Peace, and from thence, passing the houses of no fewer than four of those functionaries, proceeded to the Gut.

On the arrival of the Steamer Emperor at Annapolis, on Monday, our attention was drawn by a notice in the St. John paper of the desertion from that place. A person who had heard of the landing of the men in Granville, immediately gave information to the High Sheriff; this was about two o'clock P. M. on Monday. He however, took no steps in the matter, and in the course of the afternoon, a few members of the Volunteer Company, finding that no notice was taken of the affair by the proper authorities, consulted together and dispatched a telegram to the General at Halifax, and received his directions to arrest the offenders. About ten o'clock that night they crossed the river, and after vainly endeavouring to procure horses, altho' I understand they applied to a Magistrate for the purpose, they were obliged to proceed on foot for several miles. They at last succeeded in procuring horses, but on reaching the Gut had the mortification of finding that the deserters had embarked a few hours before. Had the Sheriff procured them the necessary conveyance, which by his presence or authority he could have done, they would doubtless have succeeded in their attempt. This is a plain statement of facts, and should not be passed over. Is it not a disgrace to a people living under the protection of the British Government, that deserters from Her Majesty's service, traitors to their country and their Queen, should be allowed to remain amongst us for days unmolested, within reach of the officers of the law? I trust that upon the report of the officer sent up by the General, proper steps will be taken, and that those in authority will not turn a deaf ear to this.

CHORAK FROM THE COUNTRY.

Annapolis Royal, 10th, Dec. 1864.

Extracts.

A PLEA FOR SLAVERY.

The author of this remarkable document—remarkable, that is, for its aim, not for its literary merits—has hit upon an ingenious line of argument. His object is to prove, not that slavery is actually laudable in itself, but that it is a necessary phase of society, neither intrinsically right nor wrong. In support of this view he introduces the old argument that the slaves are fed and clothed in return for their labour; that they prefer bondage to freedom; that, like children, they are unable to manage for themselves; that they are devotedly attached to their employers; and that they have not the same feelings as white men. The only novel features in his plea for the "peculiar institution"—novel, we mean, to English readers, though familiar enough to American ones—is that he entirely repudiates the idea of secession being fatal to slavery, and that he assumes the hypothesis of the negro being created for bondage—as the horse is supposed to be for riding or driving—as a matter hardly capable of doubt. We quite admit that the author of these letters—whom we gather to be one of that numerous class of Southerners who, for no assignable reason, hang about Paris—has something to say for himself. Many Northern stories about the cruelties practised on slaves have been, no doubt, exaggerations; many of the planters, we are quite willing to believe, are kind and conscientious masters; and, in fact, the system is not so bad as it might be fancied to be on abstract grounds. But then no system ever is. A case can always be made out in favour of any institution whatever. There is something to be argued in favour of despotism, of infanticide or polygamy, of concubinage, or of any other unrighteous institution that can be named. The gist of this plea for slavery is thus summed up by its advocate:—

I have attempted to prove that servitude in some form is the natural condition of man, the consequence of God's decree—that more especially has his curse rested upon the African race, and that we commit neither moral nor political sin when we hold in subjection this inheritance which our forefathers bequeathed to us—that, whilst we do not ask other nations to conform to our customs or institutions, we have the right to follow in the old beaten tracks, which neither God nor the Scriptures have con-

demned, but, on the contrary, have expressly sanctioned. I have represented the negro in his moral, social, and political condition, as shown the normal barbarism of the race, and contrasted him with the labouring classes elsewhere. I could not ask less than to express our desire that you should thoroughly understand the subject before entering a sweeping verdict of wrong and crime, which the bigoted abolition portion of your community now utter against us. I have given you a truthful statement of negro life habits, and character with no other purpose than the correction of undeserved error and prejudice. I have shown you the opinions of many impartial authors, and can only hope that my hurried and imperfect attempts may tend to dissipate the cloud of erroneous impressions which overhang England upon this subject.

Now no sensible person would assert that there has been or could be a time in the history of any country when slavery might be tolerated as an institution. It is impossible to say that no action can ever be justifiable under any conceivable circumstances. No sin is more universally recognised as a crime than murder, and yet every public execution is a deliberate and cold-blooded homicide. References, therefore, to the patriarchal ages or to the Jewish dispensation have no bearing at all upon the question of American slavery. All we do assert is that, granted our Christian faith and our modern principles of legislation, it must be intrinsically wrong for one set of men to work their fellow-men without reward and without their consent. The right to sell human beings like cattle, to part families, to punish men without law, and to arrange their lives and that of their wives and children according to the discretion of the master who has bought them is utterly inconsistent with Christianity and civilization. These are the simple axioms on which our hostility to slavery is based; and it is well to recall them when an attempt is made to show that slavery in a Christian country is, at the worst, a necessary evil.—*The Reader.*

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN UNION.

The projected union of the Provinces of British North America has made more rapid progress than could have been anticipated by any one who took account of the essential difficulties of the enterprise. * * * With great judgment the several provinces sent as their delegates to the Conference the leaders of the Opposition, in company with members of the Government, and the overwhelming influence which the Conference, as a body, must have been conscious of wielding, probably contributed in no small measure to the business-like character of their proceedings. A judicious silence has as yet been maintained as to the discussions of the Conference, but the scheme finally agreed upon has been made public, and the many speeches delivered at the cities where the delegates have been entertained have made it apparent enough that the unanimous agreement at last arrived at was not reached without much sturdy conflict and many necessary compromises. It is amusing to observe the anxiety with which the representatives of each province strive to show that they bring at least their share of contribution to the common stock. If the Canadas have their vast area and important population to boast of, the maritime provinces plume themselves on their harbours and their ships; Newfoundland sets forth the value of her fisheries and her mines; New Brunswick has a vigorous trade to bring into the partnership; Nova Scotia adds coal to the products of the Confederacy; Prince Edward's Island is to be the Isle of Wight of British North America; and even the Red River settlements, whose prospective privilege of joining the Union is held out, find themselves represented by a native who thinks them the most eligible places in the world for colonization, if only the Hudson's Bay Government were changed.

That thirty-three chosen representatives of different interests, in various provinces, should have come to a unanimous agreement on a scheme of union, after a discussion of two or three weeks, is itself some evidence that the project was not started before the time was ripe for it, and that the leaders in the movement had the sense to compromise many contested points. Upper Canada was by no means disposed to spend money on the construction of the Intercolonial Railway which is to bind together the members of the Federation, but it is made an essential element of the arrangement that this extension of the existing lines is to be one of the first works of the United Colonies. Without this pledge it would have been hopeless to seek the co-operation of the maritime provinces. With it, scarcely any terms would have come amiss to them. The extent to which the Union should be carried seems to have been one of the main subjects of controversy. The eager British colonist of the West would gladly have seen the whole country absolutely merged—as England, Scotland Ireland are—in a close legislative union; but local prejudices are strong in more than one of the colonies, and the substantial distinctions of religion, race and language would have enlisted almost every man in Lower Canada in opposition to a measure which would have left them comparatively powerless. It became essential, therefore, to limit the Union to some kind of federation which should leave religion education and, to a great extent the administration of civil justice, under the direction of local Governments. But

the warnings of the great American schism was sufficient to exclude any imitation of the institutions of the United States. Instead of entrusting to a central government certain specified powers and reserving to the component States all other attributes of sovereignty the proposal is to allot to the local Governments their special subjects of jurisdiction and to vest what may be called the residual sovereignty in the Federal authorities. In this way it is hoped that the risk of a disruption like that which has rent the United States may be altogether obviated, while at the same time local independence will be sufficiently respected to satisfy the narrowest provincial feeling. * * * Indirectly the Union promises to cement more closely the interests and feelings of Great Britain and her magnificent colonies. In their present divided state, the separate provinces of British North America can scarcely take adequate measures for their own defence and the extreme sensitiveness which they have shown to any reproaches on the subject has been in great measure due to their own conviction that they had borne less than their share of the burden of placing themselves in a position of security by the side of neighbours as strong and as unscrupulous as the United States. The concentration of all authority in military matters in the hands of a Government which will preside over nearly 4,000,000 of subjects will greatly alter their position for the better; and while all the leading statesmen who have taken part in the movement assume (as they may justly and fairly do) that England will not be wanting in the hour of danger they are equally explicit in their avowals that more serious efforts may be expected from such a nation as they aspire to form than any of the separate provinces have yet had the determination to make. Little as it appears on the surface, there can be no doubt that the formidable growth of the military power of their neighbours has been one of the main inducements to the movement, and it may be confidently expected that the consciousness of increased national importance will stimulate the people of British North America to exertions which, in their positions as separate colonies, seemed too much for their spirit or their strength. Perhaps the only serious opposition which the project is likely to meet with is that of a section of the French party in Lower Canada. As, however the leader of this party Mr. CARTIER, himself, if not the originator, at least one of the most energetic supporters of union it is almost impossible that any dissident fragment of his followers can effectually impede the completion of the measure; and the marked consideration which is shown for the inhabitants of the French colony throughout the Report of the Conference can scarcely fail to diminish the suspicion with which some of them have perhaps naturally regarded the project. In fact, the separation of the two Canadas, as far as all local matters are concerned will remove many subjects of difference in such matters as education which were beginning to threaten serious difficulties in the Canadian Legislature.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT OF HALIFAX.

ARRIVED.

Saturday, Dec. 10.

Brigt. Elsie, Porto Rico, ballast—to D. Cronan.

Sunday, Dec. 11.

Steamers, Glasgow, Gill, Liverpool, bound to New York; Commerce, Snow, Charlottetown, P. E. I. genl. cargo—to J. F. Phelan and others; R. M. S. Canada, Hockley, Liverpool, mails etc.—to S. Cunard & Co.

Monday, Dec. 12.

Schrs. Foaming Billow, Glasgow, Sheet Harbor—to Geo. H. Starr, & Co.; Lucknow, Smith, Annapolis; Alexander, McKay, Annapolis; Lucy Ann, Budroit, bound to Boston; Eliza, Dido, Picton; Mary Jane, —, Cape Breton; Jessie, —, P. E. Island; Anna, Lahoy, Cape Breton; Alexander, —, P. E. Island; Brigts. Emily Jane, Gammon, West Indies—to N. L. & J. T. West; Rosetta, —, Sydney—to S. Cunard & Co.; Barqt. Kathleen, Boul, Sheet Harbor, bound to Jamaica.

Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Schooner, Welcome Return, —, Sydney, fish.

Wednesday Dec. 14.

Steamer, Commerce, returned from sea; Schr. Hero, Crowell, St. John, P. R.—to G. H. Starr & Co.

Thursday, Dec. 15.

Schr. Harkaway, Smith, Bermuda—to G. C. Harvey.

PORT OF HALIFAX.

CLEARED.

Saturday Dec. 10.

Brig. Rover, Ryan, Jamaica—by G. P. Mitchell; Brigis. Forward, Essex, Jamaica—by N. L. & J. T. West; Milo, Townsend, Boston—by Robt. Boak Jr.; Africa, Sherring, Port Medway—by Master; Robt. Roy, Walsh, Cape Breton—by G. A. V. Fyfe; Schrs. Reinder, Blagdon, Baltimore—by D. H. Pitts; Osceola, Deal, New York—by J. F. Phelan, J. N. Harvey and others.

Monday Dec. 12.

Steamers, Glasgow, Gill, New York—by S. Cunard & Co.; (This Steamer is one of the Inman line and put in here for coals) Canada, Hockley, Boston—by S. Cunard & Co.; Commerce, Snow, Boston—by J. F. Phelan; Alpha, Hunter, Bermuda—by S. Cunard & Co.; Delta, Gulliford, Newfoundland—by S. Cunard & Co.

Tuesday, Dec. 13.

Schrs. Magnet, Nicholson, P. E. I. genl. cargo—by E. Albro Son & Co.; Jane Ois, Keating, Port Malgrave, genl. cargo—by P. Power & Co.; Ripple, Wilson, Turks Island, genl. cargo—by J. B. Willett; Hawk, Whittle, Port au Basque, genl. cargo—by W. Pryor & Sons; Petite Riviere, Dolliver, Port Medway, genl. cargo—by P. Power & Co.; Wm. McLeod, Belliveau, Pubnico, genl. cargo—by J. Donohoe and others; Mary Ann, Sampson, Arichat, genl. cargo—by A. McLeod & Co.; Sandwich, Haines, Liverpool, genl. cargo—by J. Donohoe and others; Amegent, Nicholson, Port Mulgrave, rum and gin—by A. Drummond; Acaadian Lass, Landry, Arichat, Fraser, Sydney, genl. cargo—by Bault Gibson & Co.; Eliza, Joyce, Arichat—by Master; James, Fraser, Sydney, genl. cargo—by J. Lithgow and others; Three Sisters, Miller, P. E. Island, genl. cargo—by Esson & Co and others.

Wednesday Dec. 14.

Schr. Charles D. Horton, Walker, Cornwallis, ballast—by S. F. Barss; Topsy, Atwood, Annapolis—by Master; Janet, Wainwright' B. W. 1—by A. Keith Jr.

Thursday, Dec. 15.

Schrs. Sevan, Irish, B. W. Indies—by W. Pitts; Leader, Colman, Port Medway—by Ryan; Heber, Goodwin, Pubnico—by N. L. & J. T. West and others; Telegraph, Shaw, New York—by Young & Hart; Atlantic, Langlois, Boston—by S. A. White & Co.; Brig. Starlight, Davidson, New York—by R. J. & W. Hart.

Friday, Dec. 16.

Schrs. Charles, Keays, P. E. Island; Terah, McNeill, P. E. Island; Sea, Moore, Canso; Dancing Feather, Provo, River Bourgeois; Elbe, Peters, Bear River; Naive, Parnow, Port Medway; Rival, Dunlop, Liverpool; Graham Hopewell, Cape Canso.

Local Items.

We have received from Miss Katzman, a copy of *Sketches in Nova Scotia*. We shall notice it at large in our next issue.

COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY.—A sermon will be preached, D. V. at St. Pauls on Sunday morning next 18th inst., in behalf of this Society, and a collection taken in aid of its funds. The utility of this Society in the cause of Education throughout the Province calls for increased contributions from its supporters.

NEWS BOYS ON THE BATTLE FIELD.—The *New York Herald* in a description of a battle before Richmond says:—"Perhaps one of the most curious features of the day was the presence of the News Boys on the field with the latest papers. While the musketry was at the loudest, while the Artillery was most sonorous, and when the passing bullet with its deadly shrip, compelled one involuntarily to duck one's head, the ragged urchins on horseback might be heard calling forth *New York Herald* in stentorian tones." No mention is here made of horns. On a field of battle they would be excusable. Let the *Morning Journal* supply its beloved Northern Army with a few. They will not be missed in Halifax.

THE NEW RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.—The report that for the future, tea and cider alone are to be sold at the Mount Uniacke Railway Refreshment Room is premature. Beer can for the present be obtained there.

WINSDOR COLLEGE.—We learn with much pleasure, that Her Majesty the Queen, has forwarded to this Institution, a copy of the Speeches of her lamented Consort. The autograph of Her Majesty will give an additional value to this copy of the works of one, whom the Poet Laureat so justly termed "ALBERT the Good."

ST. LUKE'S.—We understand that the ordinary Morning Prayer service will commence at St. Luke's Cathedral at 9 A. M., to-morrow, the Litany, and the Ordination services following at the hour of 11 A. M. We are unable to perceive the wisdom of thus inconveniencing an entire congregation, on the occasion of two more labourers being taken into the Anglo-Catholic Church. We are of opinion that the Ordination Service, being something extra; should take place at an hour, other than that commonly set apart for the ordinary service of the Church.

We are glad to find that our contemporary the *Express* can take a joke in good part, even though such a joke be aimed against itself. We hope to see the day when all our contemporaries will be equally good-humoured. "Bear and forbear," should be the policy of every journal seeking the public good.

We believe the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick to be the best abused man in the Lower Provinces. The course adopted by that gentleman with reference to Mr. Beckwith has been shamefully misrepresented by the St. John press. From reliable information we are enabled to give the real facts of the case, which are as follows. A crimp in Fredericton, attempted to persuade two soldiers of the 15th Regiment, to desert. The latter gave information against the crimp, who was prosecuted and acquitted. At the trial a demonstration was made in favor of the prisoner. The Lieutenant-Governor, hearing of this, requested a private interview with Mr. Beckwith, and expressed to that gentleman his astonishment, that with so clear a case against him the crimp had been acquitted. Mr. Beckwith an-

swered that it would be impossible to find a man in New Brunswick who could punish a prisoner for such an offence. The Lieutenant-Governor said he could not believe it, but if what the Mayor said were true, the people of his Province must be eminently disloyal. The innocent phrase of Mr. Gordon has been distorted by the St. John Press into a general assertion on the part of the Lieutenant-Governor, that New Brunswickers were, as a rule disloyal.

The Rev. Mr. Patterson, a parish priest, lately appointed to the mission at Petite Rocher, Gloucester Co., N. B. has been missing since Sunday, 27th ultimo. For the last eight days 200 to 300 men have been engaged searching in the woods for him, but thus far without success.—*Chronicle*

The recent gales have probably proved destructive to shipping on both the eastern and western coasts of this Province. Already we have intelligence by telegraph of the total loss, at Cape Canso, of the *Young Nova Scotian* and *Faugh a Ballagh*. The former barque cleared at this port a few days since for an outporto load. She hails from Annapolis.—*Reporter*

It is said that John Leech worked very hard and although he made a large income—perhaps as much as £2500 a year, Punch alone paying him £1500—he spent it nearly all, not on personal extravagancies, but upon those of his friends and relation who needed help.—*Reporter*

Summary of the Telegraphic News of the Week.

Richmond papers continue to predict a speedy attack on that City by Grant. They report that the latter has been largely informed.

Nothing definite has been heard from General Foster's command, since the late affair near Grahamsville, S. C. He lost from 600 to 1000 men, in attacking the rebel lines, and was then reported to have moved in another direction.

A large steam blockade runner was driven ashore, off Wilmington, and destroyed by Federal gun-boats.

A heavy snow storm and gale on Lake Erie, yesterday, (9th inst.) caused considerable damage.

The Rebel Senate, on the 6th, defeated the resolution introduced on the recommendation of Jeff. Davis, that certain officers, exempt under State Laws, shall be forced into the rebel army.

A Resolution was passed by the South Carolina House of Representatives, fiercely denouncing the proposition to make soldiers of Slaves and free them.

Richmond papers of the 9th state, that a force from Grant's army had struck the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad at Jarrrets, 22 miles south of Petersburg, and were proceeding towards Weldon. Also that a heavy column of Artillery Infantry, and Cavalry left the front of Petersburg on Tuesday last, and were reported on Wednesday morning at Proctor's Mills, 20 miles south of Petersburg.

Young Nova Scotian and Faugh a Ballagh are ashore at Cape Canso—wrecks.

Two of the new Monitors were under fire yesterday on the James River, from the rebel battery at Howletts. The "Mahapac" stood a severe test and was uninjured. The "Sangus" with a turret of different construction, received considerable damage.

Despatches from Virginia state that General Warren had reached the Weldon Railroad, and defeated a rebel force at Larets.

An arrival from Port Royal, 7th., reports that General Foster's scouts had communicated with Sherman, who was marching for Savannah and expected to reach there on the 14th. Foster had burned the Pocotalico bridge and otherwise destroyed Railroad communication between Charleston and Savannah.

Portions of a vessel, also barrels of Mackerel and chest with register of the Pearl, of Granville, found ashore near the entrance of Yarmouth Harbor this morning, 13th Dec.) Nothing seen of the crew; doubtless perished last night, during gale.

Despatch from Nashville reports severe fighting, but no general battle has yet taken place.

A force of Rebel cavalry made a dash into Murfreesboro, but were driven out by General Milroy. Many buildings in the town were burned.

The rebel General Forrest with 2500 Cavalry, supported by a force of Infantry, was repulsed on Wednesday last, losing two guns, many killed and wounded, nearly three hundred prisoners.

So far Hood has made little progress in his attempted invasion of Tennessee and Kentucky.

General Thomas the Federal Commander is reported as perfectly satisfied with the situation.

Rebel papers acknowledge that Grant has gained an important lodgement on the north side James River, near to Richmond. Also that Warren is rapidly marching on Waldon.

The Confederate force that recently made a raid into St. Alban's, Vermont, and subsequently captured on Canadian territory, have been on trial in Montreal, and discharged on the ground of want of jurisdiction.

General Warren (Federal) has returned from his expedition to the Weldon Railroad. He destroyed 16 miles of the road with bridges, depots, and other property.

General Grant in a despatch to the War Department, communicates the announcement contained in Richmond papers of yesterday, that Gen. Sherman was within five miles of Savannah, in line of battle, opposed by a heavy Confederate force of Veterans and Militia.

The Federal gun-boat "Otsego," has been sunk in Roanoke River, by a Torpedo. No lives lost.

The blockade steamer "Emma Hardy," has been captured with 700 bales of cotton on board.

The Washington correspondent of the World describes a severe battle in front of Savannah, alleged to have taken place on Saturday the 10th inst. The Federals numbered twenty thousand under Sherman, in person, who made the attack early in the day, the battle continuing until night. The Confederates were protected by earthworks, and were in strong force, including the Garrison of Savannah, consisting of twelve thousand Veterans. The Confederates were finally compelled to retire within the defences of Savannah. The loss was severe on both sides, 2500 Federal and 3000 or 4000 Confederates; among the latter are fully 1200 prisoners, including many Officers of rank. Colors, cannon, small arms, waggons and caissons were also captured.

Swift, Harlee, and Cobb, were in command of the Confederates. In consequence of the discharge of the St. Alban's raiders, Gen. Dix in a general order issued yesterday, instructed the Military Commanders on the Canadian frontier in case of further depredation to pursue the marauders if necessary, across the boundary, between the United States and that Province, and that the fugitives if captured, are under no circumstances to be surrendered, but must be sent to headquarters for trial and punishment by Martial Law.

The subject also was taken up in Congress, resolutions were reported, but were held over, looking to the formation of an Army Corps to protect the frontier, also to demand of Great Britain full pay, principal and interest, for all American property destroyed on the high seas by rebel pirates, armed, manned or fitted out in British ports.

The newspapers generally comment quite indignantly on the release of the St. Alban's raiders with their plunder. The New York Herald thinks the decision will cause as much astonishment to the British, as it has to the Federal Government.

Major-General Howard, commanding the right wing of Sherman's army, reports to the War Department, Dec. 9, 10 miles from Savannah. "We have met with perfect success thus far. The army is in fine spirits and close by." It is confirmed that Railroad communication between Savannah via Charleston, has been cut. There is a great panic in both cities. Philadelphia papers of to-day, noon, state that Savannah is now in possession of the Federals.

The Attorney General of Canada had decided that the decision liberating the St. Alban's raiders was wrong, and has ordered their arrest and the delivery of the stolen money.

A special despatch of the cabinet at Quebec denounced the act of Judge Coursal, and it is believed that he will be dismissed by Parliament.

A despatch to the War Department from Nashville reports a great battle between the Federals under Gen. Thomas and the entire Confederate army under Hood. The battle commenced yesterday morning by Thomas attacking Hood's lines in front of Nashville, and had not ended when the Courier left the field of battle.

The despatch says our line advanced on the right, five miles; the Confederates were driven from the river, from their entrenchments, from the range of hills on which their left rested, and forced back upon his right and centre; and his centre was pushed back from one to three miles, with the loss of 17 guns and 1500 prisoners, and the loss of his whole line of earthworks except about a mile of his extreme right, where no serious attempts to dislodge him was made. Our casualties are reported light. Nothing from Sherman.

THE DOUBLE HOUSE.

"God forbid," she said, with a shiver.

I took an early opportunity of sending baby away, and talking of everyday things. I have great pity for a childless wife, unless, as rarely happens in this world, her marriage is so supremely happy that the brimming cup leaves not another drop to be desired. Yet even then its sweetness is apt to cloy, or become a sort of dual egotism, which feels no love own. Forgetting, perhaps, that perfect wedded union is not meant for the satisfaction of the two only, but also that from their oneness of bliss they may radiate a wide light of goodness and blessedness out upon the world.

I rather wondered, knowing from report and from my own experience what good people the Merchistons were, that they did not both try more to live this life, which would certainly have made them happier than she, at least, appeared. Yet, as I said I pitied her. No one can see the skeleton in his neighbour's house, or the worm in his friend's heart; yet we know, as our experience of life grows wider, that both must as surely be there.

Mrs. Merchiston and I had a very pleasant chat; the baby had opened our hearts. We were growing better than acquaintances—friends

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We planned social evenings for the ensuing winter, in which, when he came in, Mr. Rivers cordially joined.

"And I hope we shall see the doctor too, madam," continued he breaking out into impropriety, and disarding laconicism; "there isn't a man alive I respect more than your husband."

She colored vividly, but merely observed, "You are right—I thank you."

We were all standing at our door, she being just about to take leave. Suddenly she drew back within. At that moment there passed close by—so close that he must have touched his wife's dress—Dr. Mercheston.

"He looked in, distinctly saw us all, and his him."

"Doctor—doctor!" cried my husband.

In crossing the street, Dr. Mercheston turned, bowed in reply, but did not stop.

"Excuse me, I had something to say to him," cried James, and was off, without a glance at Mrs. Mercheston.

But when I looked at her I was really alarmed. Her limbs were tottering, her countenance pale as death. I helped her back into the parlor, and made her lie down; but all my efforts could scarcely keep her from fainting. At length she said, feebly—

"Thank you, I am better now. It is very wrong of me. But I could not help it. Oh, Mrs. Rivers—with a piteous, bewildered look—"if you had been his wife, and had not seen him for two whole years!"

"Him! Is it possible you mean your husband?"

"Yes, my own husband—my dear husband, who loved me when he married me. God knows what I have done that he should not love me now!—Oh me! what have I been saying!"

"Never mind what you have been saying, my dear lady, I shall keep it all secret. There now, it will do you good to cry."

And I cried too, heartily. It seemed very dreadful. That young, fond, pretty creature, to live under the same roof as her husband, and not to have seen him for two whole years. Here was explained the mystery of the Double House—a confirmation entire of those few straggling reports which, when I caught them flying abroad, I had utterly quashed, denied, and disbelieved. I was greatly shocked, and as was natural, I took the woman's side of the question.

"And I thought him so good and you so happy! What deceivers men are!"

"You are mistaken, Mrs. Rivers, in one man at least," she returned with dignity; "my husband spoke truly when he said, there was no man living more worthy of respect than Dr. Mercheston."

"He has not lost yours, then?"

"In no point."

"And you love him still?"

"I do; God pity me—I do." She sobbed as if her heart were breaking.

There was then but one conclusion to be drawn—one only reason for a good man's thus mercifully putting away his wife—some error on her part either known or imagined by him. But no! when I looked down upon her gentle, innocent, childlike face, I rejected the doubt as impossible. Nor had I detected in her any of those inherent, incurable faults of temper or character, the "continually dropping that weareth away the stone," which, if divorce be ever justifiable for any thing short of crime, would have justified in some marriages I have seen.

"Does any body know?" Not that I mind, but it might harm him.

Mrs. Rivers, do you think any body at Apsdale knows?"

"Alas, in a village like this, there can be no such thing as a secret."

She wrung her hands, "I thought so—I feared so. But he came to live in the country because the doctors said London air was killing me. I wish it had killed me—oh, I wish it had!"

I have seen the look of despair in many a wronged, miserable wife's eyes, but I never saw it so mournfully plain as in those of poor Barbara Mercheston. I took her to my arms, though she was older than I, and asked her to let me comfort her and be her friend, if she had no other.

"Not one—not one. But"—and she started back with a sudden fear—"you will not be my friend by becoming an enemy to my husband?"

"I have no such intention. I condemn him not; to his own Master let him stand or fall."

Probably this was harshly spoken, for she took my hand, saying impudently, "Pray do not misjudge either him or me. I was very wrong in betraying any thing. But my life is so lonely. I am not strong; and this shock was too much for me. How ill he looked—how gray he has grown! Oh, Evam, my poor husband!"

To see her weeping there, without the slightest anger or wounded pride, roused both feeling in me. I determined to fathom this mysterious affair; and braving the usual fate of those who interfere between man and wife—namely, being hated by both parties—to try and remedy it if I could.

"Tell me, my dear Mrs. Mercheston—believe me it is from no idle curiosity I ask—how long has this state of things lasted?"

"For five years."

"Five years!" I was staggered. "Entire separation and estrangement for five years! And for no cause? Are you sure—oh, forgive me if I wound you—but are you sure there is no cause?"

"I declare before Heaven—none! He has never blamed me in word or deed."

"Nor given you reason to blame him?" said I, with a sharp glance, still strongly inclining to the rights of my own sex.

"Me blame him?—blame my husband!" she answered, with a look of half-reproachful wonder. "I told you he loved me."

"But love changes," continued I, very cautiously, for it was hard to meet her large innocent eyes, like gazelle's with your hand on its throat.

"Men sometimes come to love other women than their wives."

She flushed indignantly all over her face. "You wrong him—you wickedly wrong him. His life is and always has been, as spotless as my own."

Well, thought I, I give it up. Either she is extraordinarily deceived, and the hypocrisy of that man is such as never was man's before or the problem is quite beyond my solving. Yet—one more attempt.

"Just a word. Tell me, Mrs. Mercheston, how and when did this sad estrangement begin?"

"Six months after our marriage. We married for love; we were both alone in the world; we were all in all to one another. Gradually he grew melancholy—I could not find out why; he said it would pass away in time. Then he had a fever—I nursed him through it. When he recovered—he sent me away."

The brute! I thought. Just like a man! "But how?" I said aloud. "What reason did he give? What excuse could he offer?"

"None. He only wrote to me, when away on a short journey, and told me that this separation must be—that it was absolutely inevitable—that if I desired it he would leave me altogether—otherwise, it was his earnest wish we should still live under the same roof. But never never meet."

"And you never have met?"

"Very rarely—only by the merest chance. Then he would pass me by, never lifting his eyes. Once—it was in the first few weeks of our separation—I met him on the staircase. I was different from what I am now, Mrs. Rivers; very proud, outraged, indignant. I flung past him, but he caught me in his arms. I would not speak; I stood upright in his clasp like stone. 'We have been happy, Barbara,' but never can be again," I cried, passionately. 'No, he said; 'I know that—never again.' He held me close a moment or two, then broke from me. We have never met since."

Such was her story, which the more I divined into it, became the more incomprehensible. No condemnatory evidence could be found against the husband; in all things Mrs. Mercheston's comforts were studied, her wishes gratified. She said it often seemed as if invisible watch were kept over her, to provide against her least desire. I could only counsel the poor wife to patience, hope, and trust in God.

(To be continued.)

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MAGAZINES FOR DECEMBER,

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10 " " " " " " " 259 doz.
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