

THE BULLFROG.

Nec sumit aut ponit securus,
Arbitrio popularis aura.—Hor.

No. 28.

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ENGLAND, CANADA, AND FEDERATION.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist between Canada and the maritime Provinces regarding the wisdom of the scheme drawn up at Quebec, it is tolerably clear that British statesmen are in no mood to be trifled with by Canadians concerning the defence of the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario. The questions at issue on this side of the Atlantic between those for and against Federation, are questions which in no wise interfere with Imperial policy, as shadowed forth in the House of Lords. The opposition to the Quebec scheme both in this Province and in New Brunswick has been called forth chiefly with reference to three questions—viz: Representation, Tariff, and the Intercolonial Railway, none of which points affect in any way whatever the policy of the mother country. The expediency of a Federal Union upon the terms proposed, rests entirely with the common sense of the several Provincial Legislatures, whereas the question of Canadian defence has called forth all the energy of some of the most distinguished orators and statesmen of Great Britain. Throughout the whole course of an interesting debate in the House of Lords—a debate involving questions of extreme delicacy, no less than of the most chivalrous patriotism—not a word was uttered concerning the maritime Provinces, save a passing allusion to Halifax. The question of Federation was merely quoted as illustrative of Canadian loyalty, nothing more. It was not argued that the proposed Federation will in any way tend to render Canada more difficult of conquest than she is at present, and it is by no means probable that the refusal of the Lower Provinces to unite with Canada will in any way shake England's determination to make the Canadians contribute largely towards defending themselves. Whether Union be accomplished or no, it will rest with the Canadian Legislature to accept or reject the terms of the Imperial authorities. However favorably England may regard the proposed Federation in its broad, general, loyal aspect (and Englishmen view it in no other light), it is a scheme of altogether secondary importance as regards Imperial policy. The possession of Canada is beyond all doubt a source of much anxiety to England, and the time has arrived when Canadians must either make up their minds to be taxed for their defence both in men and money, or else forfeit all right to be regarded as citizens of the British Empire. Until very lately, an impression prevailed among all the colonies that the loss of them would be so terrible a calamity to England, that she would submit to any wrong or any insult rather than risk it. But this impression on the part of colonists is fast dying out. It is not long since the *Saturday Review*, (a journal conducted on principles the very opposite of those held by men of the JOHN BOURNE school,) said, with reference to colonies not second in importance to those of B. N. America,—“If the Eastern Colonies of Australia were foreign countries, our estimates would be considerably lighter, our self-defence in war would be a far less formidable undertaking, and we should be free to transport to Western Australia or not, as we thought fit, without any external interference.” And it is tolerably clear that the future relations of Canada with the mother country must mainly depend upon the readiness of the Canadians to submit to a largely increased system of taxation. The

British public is well nigh tired of expending money upon Canadian defence, and however much we may admire the chivalrous sentiments of Lord DERBY—sentiments akin to those which in former times inspired the eloquence of CHATHAM, we cannot shut our eyes to the practical common sense which characterizes the language of the *Times* upon the debate wherein Lord DERBY recently played so prominent a part:—“When the public hear of Canadian defences, they experience nothing but a feeling of uneasiness and perplexity. * * They also know, and reflect with a feeling of mingled pride and embarrassment, that the people of these British American Provinces are anxious to maintain their connexion with the mother country; that they are not unwilling to take up arms in their own defence, and are, on the other hand, fully confident that we shall on every occasion of trouble to themselves rush with fleets and armies to their help. The position of these loyal fellow subjects with respect to our people puzzles even practical politicians. They give the United Kingdom their good wishes and nothing more. They legislate for themselves, and in so doing show little favor to Imperial interests. * * With the United States, indeed, the Provinces were, until the other day, connected by treaty regulations, which brought the two countries closer to each other commercially than either is to England. Accordingly, when Canadian defences are talked about, the British public are not in a very cheerful humour. People do not want to do anything ungenerous; they do not want to repudiate obligations or abandon those who have a claim to their protection; but there is, we must say, a very deep feeling that the connexion between the mother country and the colony ought not to mean the expenditure of large sums by England for the defence of territories three thousand miles away from our shores.” And in the January number of the *Edinburgh Review* we find the following words:—“Though Imperial England is doing her best to keep up appearances in the management of five-and-forty dependencies, the political links which once bound them to each other and their common centre are evidently worn out. * * Economists fail to comprehend the value of outlying provinces which garrison their frontiers with our troops, while they exclude our manufacturers from their markets.” There can be no mistaking the tone of these passages, which are indeed quite in keeping with the language of Lord LYTTON, who, “hoped that Confederation would, in the case of Canada, lead to a happy and amicable separation.”

Let us now turn to the conditions which it is for Canada to accept or reject, whether united with the maritime Provinces or situated as she is at present. It is clear that England expects Canada to maintain at her own cost a marine force sufficient for purposes of local maritime defence. The policy of the British Government upon this important point is too clearly stated to be misunderstood. Mr. CARDWELL, in moving for permission to bring in a bill “to extend the principles of the Royal Naval Reserve to all the maritime colonies of the Empire,” said:—“It appeared to the government that there was no reason why the same principle should not be extended to our colonies possessing a maritime population, so that colonies like those of Australia and British North America might be able in time

"of peace to train their maritime population to the use of guns, subject to conditions like those of the Royal Naval Reserve, and that in time of war those trained seamen should be available, under the control of the government of the Colony, for all purposes of maritime defence." Mr. CARDWELL further stated, in reply to Sir W. MILES, that "the bill contemplated nothing which was not to be at the expense of the Colonies." Of one thing, therefore, we may rest tolerably well assured—England intends that, as regards defence, both naval and military, we shall act up to the letter of the scheme planned by the delegates, and organise a local force "for local defence against a sudden incursion by sea." Now, we cannot deny that Canada is placed in a position extremely embarrassing, a position the resolute contemplation of which is sufficient to scare any but the most consummate masters of statesmanship. There is a terrible earnestness in the tone both of the British government and the British press, and Canada has before her but one of two prospects: she must either consent to be taxed moderately, or be left at the mercy of an invading force. This is purely a Canadian question, to be settled by the Canadians without reference to the maritime Provinces, and before linking our fortunes with Canada, for good or for evil, we should like to see whether the Canadians are prepared to further the Imperial policy, with or without Federation. We never regarded the Federation scheme save as a last desperate effort on the part of Canada to get out of her political difficulties, and we are still slow to believe that Canada has at heart only the consolidation of British Empire in the West. In the *Bullfrog* of Dec. 3rd, occurred the following passage:—"The politicians of Upper and Lower Canada having brought things to a dead-lock by their quarrels, see a chance of breathing time if they can persuade the Lower Provinces to join a scheme of their own concoction." A similar view of the case has since been adopted by the *Edinburgh Review* in almost precisely similar words. The Federation scheme, says the *Edinburgh*, "has, in fact, grown out of the crisis, or (as it has been called in Canada) the 'dead-lock' by which the advocates of 'Representation by Population,' have for some years past persistently impeded the practical operations of every successive government which has refused to adopt their policy." The decisive action of New Brunswick has, of course, saved our Legislature the trouble of declaring for or against the Federation scheme, and unless our delegates can make sure of a majority of at least twenty votes in the House of Assembly, it would be the merest folly to divide upon the question. To carry a question of such vast importance by some five or six votes, would virtually imply a vote of censure upon the policy of the delegates, and the Federation party would do well to avoid a division—at least for the present. It is, we regret to observe, supposed that some of the most vehement opposers of the Quebec scheme have been mainly actuated by a desire to overthrow the present Government. We are slow to believe this supposition correct. While careful to make every allowance for politicians in a young unpopulated country such as Nova Scotia, we can hardly conceive it possible that, on a question so momentous as that of Federation, any man could be found capable of acting from local, party motives. We have hitherto opposed the adoption of the Federation scheme for several reasons. We mistrust Canadian politicians, and are of opinion that, by exercising a little delay, the Maritime Provinces will be enabled to secure a better bargain than that now offered for their acceptance. We are of opinion that the interests of Canada and the Maritime Provinces strongly favor a commercial rather than a political Union. Canada is a grain producing country,—Nova Scotia is wealthy in mineral produce,—it is, therefore, for the interest of either country to have free trade and an Intercolonial Railway. Let us enter first into a commercial treaty with Canada, and so render it politic for Canada and Nova Scotia to be staunch allies. Then,

as either country comes to know the other, let us discuss the feasibility of a closer Union. But, at present, Canada is in a dilemma: let us see how she will get out of it, before committing ourselves to any definite policy. There is a crisis at hand, but the crisis hinges solely upon the action of the Canadians,—Nova Scotians being merely lookers on, at least—for the present.

Since the above was in type, we notice that the Government decline bringing forward the Quebec Scheme in the House of Assembly.

THE LEGISLATURE—MINOR DEBATES.

We venture to affirm that there is more nonsense talked in this Province about temperance, than about anything else. Hear the principle of the bill framed with reference to an Asylum for inebriates:—"Mr. LOSGLEY said the principle of the bill was to tax the Rumseller for the support of those unfortunates who had been brought to that state (? what state) by his means." This is a beautiful principle in theory, but like many other beautiful principles it could not be carried out without an undue interference with the rights of the subject. How could a rum-seller of moderate sagacity settle in his own mind, the consequences likely to accrue from the sale of his staple? Some men are so delicately organized that a single glass of spirits will produce intoxication of the most outrageous kind; others again, are materially benefited by a moderate use of stimulants. How then could a rum-seller be guided as to whom he should serve? Mr. TOBIN, very sensibly remarked "that it would be found, that the consumers would, after all, be the ones who would have to pay." So we should imagine. Suppose a temperance man became an habitual drunkard from living with a brother addicted to the use of spirits—would not the brother be more morally guilty than the party who supplied the house with liquor? We are glad to find that the Chairman of the Railway Committee has taken our advice, and had the rails near the ten-mile house set in order. A large number of petitions for grants of land to aged teachers caused the Hon. Mr. SHANNON to move an amendment:—"that this House considers that the policy of giving free grants, should be discontinued." He "did not think it likely that men who were engaged in teaching all their lives, would go into the forest and cultivate the land." It certainly does not seem likely, but it is wise to give them the chance of doing so, and it is moreover an economical way of dealing with superannuated servants of the Crown. The more land that is cleared the better for the Province, and we are glad to find that in Lunenburg, at least, Mr. KAULBACK "did not know of any grant that had been made to a teacher that had not been settled upon." The House was wise to vote against Mr. SHANNON'S amendment. Some mystery seems to hover about the affairs of Lunenburg as regards grants of Crown Land and Mr. TOBIN "would like to understand the meaning of these constant allusions to Lunenburg. If there was anything rotten in the state of Denmark, it would be as well to know it,"—whereupon a charming little discussion ensued, relative to the duties of county members to their constituents, their fellow members, and themselves. Mr. ROBERTSON "could not understand why the member for Lunenburg should be so sensitive," and Mr. KAULBACK said that he was "not at all sensitive (we are sorry to hear it), but there was a certain courtesy due from one member to another, which it would be well for the member for Shelburne to observe." (Ha ha). The PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, announced "that it was the intention of the Government, at an early day, to bring in a bill to provide the same salary for the Governor's Private Secretary, as was formerly allowed." The question naturally arises—why was the salary ever discontinued? It was only \$1,250; and its discontinuance was perhaps the nearest approach to meanness whereof a really great statesman could possibly be guilty. Mr. BOURNOUT has been fighting for Cape Breton most manfully—"why was it that (in the matter of road money) Cape Breton should be placed so far below other counties of far less population? That was a legitimate question (certainly it was) for the House to consider, and whilst this inequality existed he would never fail to raise his voice against it." Bravo! Mr. Bournout—but wait until the estimates come under consideration.

Among the small provincial politics, is that which permits men by virtue of their sly system was for can be no two opin Session, compelled dence from their s ing then very high no obstacle, howev whom they repre individual member open to any abuse acted his ordinary franks left wherew considered a favor form, either by ho we think, be little vilage was accord spirit, and was ne whole families for Office. The Post money value of tl officials and recov expense of the ge sake of curiosity, expended upon th ters, parcels, &c. we greatly err, a those having no c doubtless very co by merely signit friends and casual abled to save the this, we maintain privilege was first A. should, in vir ing the general p might correspon acquaintances all ing returned for from postal rates the remainder of honorable membe but we cannot ho hourly abused. but of families, v out ever paying There is no atte more common th tion that,—"Th it is a great conv because, as a rul far fewer scruple concerning indir and it is indeed When a lady " and forwards hi she does so with an indirect tax v be on intimate t case. The lady those despatched but the lady pay to pay for her a would remind th

FRANKS.

Among the smaller evils connected with our system of Provincial politics, is the almost systematic abuse of that privilege which permits members of the Legislature to save their pockets by virtue of their signatures. Of the spirit in which the franking system was formerly adopted in the mother country there can be no two opinions. Honorable members were, during the Session, compelled to attend to an enormous mass of correspondence from their several constituencies, and, the postal rates being then very high, it seemed but fair that members should have no obstacle, however trifling, thrown between them and those whom they represented. But the number of franks allowed to individual members was so limited that the privilege was not left open to any abuse worthy the name; a member, having transacted his ordinary political correspondence, had but a very few franks left wherewith to oblige his private friends. A frank was considered a favor, and was not regarded as a mere matter of form, either by honorable members or their friends. There can, we think, be little doubt that in this Province the franking privilege was accorded honorable members in precisely the same spirit, and was never intended to save (during the session) whole families from ever paying a cent into the General Post Office. The Post Office receipts suffer nothing, inasmuch as the money value of the franks is duly noted by the Post Office officials and recovered from the Provincial Government at the expense of the general public. We should like, merely for the sake of curiosity, to know the actual amount of public money expended upon the redemption of parliamentary franks on letters, parcels, &c., within the last three or four years. Unless we greatly err, a large proportion of it has been given away to those having no claim whatever upon the public purse. It is doubtless very convenient that a member of the Legislature may, by merely signing his name, confer a small favor upon his friends and casual acquaintances, and at the same time be enabled to save their pockets without lightening his own. But this, we maintain, is altogether contrary to the spirit wherein the privilege was first conceded. It was never intended that Mr. A. should, in virtue of his being an M.P.P., be justified in taxing the general public in order that Mesdames B. C. and D. might correspond with, and send parcels to their friends and acquaintances all over the world. The mere fact of Mr. X. being returned for a county in nowise justifies Mrs. Z's exemption from postal rates for every Parliamentary session held during the remainder of her natural life. We have no desire to see honorable members deprived of rational parliamentary privileges, but we cannot hold our peace when we see a privilege daily and hourly abused. We know of dozens, not merely of individuals, but of families, who correspond extensively every session without ever paying a cent into the coffers of the Post Office. There is no attempt at concealment in the matter—nothing is more common than to hear Mater-familias volunteer the information that,—“Thanks to Mr. P. we pay no postage, and really it is a great convenience to us.” We say, “Mater-familias,” because, as a rule, women have in small matters of this nature far fewer scruples than men. Women rarely trouble their heads concerning indirect taxation, the rights of the people, &c., &c., and it is indeed highly important that they should not do so. When a lady “presents her compliments to Mr. Dash, M.P.P., and forwards him ten packages of envelopes for signature,” she does so without in the least imagining that she is imposing an indirect tax upon hundreds who have not the good fortune to be on intimate terms with an M.P.P. Yet such is virtually the case. The lady's letters, parcels, &c., weigh just as heavy as those despatched *and paid for* by her less fortunate neighbours, but the lady pays nothing, while her neighbours are compelled to pay for her and themselves too. This is hardly fair, and we would remind the members of our Legislature, no less than those

whom they systematically *oblige*, that the term “honorable,” is supposed to convey a certain meaning to the minds of the masses. When we speak of “the honorable member,” for such and such a place, we wish it to be clearly understood that we believe the said member to be a man whose position as a representative of the people is a guarantee for his fair and honorable dealing upon all questions involving the interests of the general public. It were the merest folly to mine this question of franks; the privilege is abused to an extent incompatible with the strict laws either of honour or justice. We think those who sign their names are less to blame than those who systematically solicit signatures. It is hard to refuse a trifling boon when to grant it may seem a charity. There might arise certain cases in which an honorable member would scarce be justified in withholding his autograph, but on the other hand, no member of the Legislature is morally justified in franking letters, month after month, and session after session, for those having no claim whatever upon the Provincial revenue. We hardly know what to say concerning those who take advantage of their intimacy with honorable members to perpetrate an indirect fraud (for it is nothing less) upon the community. It is not easy to comprehend the *mcanness* which prompts people in moderately easy circumstances to shift the burthen of five, or ten, or twelve and a half cents, from their own shoulders to those of their neighbours;—the idea is too novel to us to be rightly understood, and we sincerely trust we may never understand it in all its petty bearings. In dismissing from our minds this uncongenial topic, we shall endeavour to point out what seems to us the *spirit* of the franking system. It was instituted to afford members of the Legislature every facility for discussing political topics with their constituents; to allow members to forward blue books, parliamentary documents, &c., to those whose study of the same might prove beneficial to the interests of the general community, or of any particular constituency; and lastly—to enhance, in a small way, the dignity attaching to a member's position as one of the people's representatives. But the privilege was *not* meant to save whole families from paying postage for months together, and we are glad to know that some, at least, of the members occasionally refuse their signatures.

MURDOCH'S HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX: A. & W. MACKINLAY.

(Concluding notice.)

For most of the information regarding Acadie from 1608 to 1613, Mr. MURDOCH is indebted to the Jesuits, the first volume of whose “Relation” was published at Quebec in 1858. At the close of 1607, we find Canada and Acadie without a European inhabitant, but in the next year M. Champlain (de Monts' lieutenant) being sent on a voyage of discovery up the St. Lawrence began the settlement of Quebec. Meanwhile Henry the Fourth determined to attempt the conversion of the Indians in Acadie by means of the Jesuits, and on the 21th June, 1610—“about 24 or 25 of the Indians were baptized at Port Royal, by a priest called “Messire Jossé Fleche, surnamed the Patriarch, all the Indians “of the neighbourhood being there assembled.” M. Poutrincourt, (who had, it will be remembered, obtained a grant of Port Royal) sent his son, M. Biencourt, back to France “to carry the “news of the baptism of the Indians, and to bring out succors for “the colony, which was insufficiently provided to face the ensuing “winter,” and an arrangement was made by which the Port Royal settlement should be supplied with all necessaries for a period of five years, as also with funds for the barter trade with the Indians. The news of the conversions among the Indians seems to have powerfully affected the ladies of the French Court, especially Madame la Marquise de Guercheville and the Queen,—Marie de Medicis, neither of whom spared any exertion to forward the success of the Jesuit mission. The Queen, “directed 500 crowns to “be paid to the Jesuit missionaries—the Marchioness de Verneuil “presented them with suitable dresses and utensils for performing

"mass,—Madame de Sourdis furnished them with linen,—and "Madame de Guercheville with whatever else they required for "the voyage." This last mentioned lady seems to have been actuated solely by religious zeal, for a little further on we learn that she "bargained for an interest in the profits of the goods and "trade, such share in the profits to belong to the Jesuits' mission." The Jesuit mission crossed the Atlantic in a vessel of not more than 60 tons, and their humility and devoutness during the voyage won the favor and esteem of the Captain and Pilot, both of whom were Protestants. Their arrival at Port Royal (22d June, 1611) was hailed with great joy by Poutreincourt, whose party had been for some time dependent upon the Indians for support. In July, Poutreincourt went to France to seek further aid, and obtained from Madame de Guercheville a thousand crowns for the purchase of a cargo which arrived safely at Port Royal, 23rd January, 1612. Madame de Guercheville, meanwhile, having found that all the Province, except Port Royal, belonged to M. de Monts, procured from the latter a release of his rights, "and from Louis "XIII. (Henry the fourth had been assassinated by Ravaillac in "the previous year), a grant of the Province to herself, excepting "Port Royal, which belonged to Poutreincourt." During the absence of Poutreincourt a dispute arose relative to the burial of an Indian convert who, while sick, had expressed a wish to be buried with his forefathers. Father Biard, a Jesuit, was of opinion that "if the body of the chief were not interred in the Christian burial "ground, his tribe might be led to doubt the reality of his conversion, and that this idea would prove an obstacle to their own; "while Biencourt (son of M. Poutreincourt), who had promised the "old man previously to fulfil his desire, said that the Indian burial "place should be consecrated." The matter was finally settled by the Indian Chief agreeing that Father Biard should bury him with the Christians. This winter the Colonists fared but ill. "The weekly food for each individual consisted of about ten ounces of "bread, half a pound of lard, three dishfuls of peas or beans, and "one dishful of prunes."

Madame de Guercheville seems to have distrusted de Monts because he was a Huguenot, otherwise it is not improbable she would have united her interests with those of de Monts in the new colony of Quebec, as the prospects of Acadie at this time (1612) seemed almost hopeless. However, the Marchioness, far from being discouraged, again obtained the co-operation of Marie de Medicis and fitted out a vessel of 100 tons with one year's provisions for the Port Royal settlers, and this vessel, having on board forty-eight persons, among whom were two Jesuit priests, arrived at La Héve in Acadie on the 16th May, 1613. "At La Héve they "said mass, and planted a cross, with the arms of the Marchioness "affixed to it, as a mark of their taking possession, and thence "they sailed to Port Royal." Having presented the Queen's letter authorizing the departure of the two Jesuit priests who had accompanied Madame de Guercheville's first mission, they departed and "having found a very good site for a settlement in "Pentagoët, or Penobscot Bay, in the neighbourhood of Mount-desert island * * they gave up their first design of going to "Kadesquit, and began their labours here,—erecting buildings "and tilling the ground. * * * The English had been about "seven years engaged in settling Virginia, and they were in the "habit at this period of coming annually to catch fish, as far North "as Pemquit, which is about twenty-five leagues South of Penobscot." A squadron of Virginian fishing craft convoyed by an armed vessel, attacked the French vessel, which after a time surrendered, whereupon the English Captain (Argal) went on shore and having coolly parloined the royal commission of the French Captain (M. de Saussaye) requested the latter to produce it, which he was naturally unable to do. "Argal then accused him of being "a free booter and pirate, and then gave up the French ship and "settlement to pillage by his men,"—after which he entered into a discussion with de Saussaye as to the return of the French. Argal was afterwards sent by the Virginian Government "to destroy all the French settlements and forts in Acadie," and to send back to France any settlers he could find. He accordingly first visited St. Sauveur, where he burned and destroyed all before him, doing likewise at the isle of St. Croix, from which place he proceeded to Port Royal, and destroyed the fort and all monuments and marks of French power. "After this destruction of his settlement, M. de Poutreincourt gave up all thoughts of American inter-

ests, and re-entered the royal service, in which he distinguished "himself, and died on what is termed the bed of honor, having "been killed at *St. Méry sur Seine*, which he took for the king." From this period (1615) until the grant of Nova Scotia (including what is now New Brunswick) to Sir William Alexander, confirmed in 1625, the history of the Province is almost a blank. In the latter year, Quebec "began to assume the name and character of "a town or city; and in the same year Boston was founded." At this time "the order of baronets of Nova Scotia was established "on the principle that they should assist the plantation of the "Province at their own charges." In the marriage treaty of Charles the first, "it was said to have been stipulated that England should cede Acadie to France." The last few pages of Mr. MURDOCH's first number are devoted to an account of the intrigue of Claude de la Tour (one of the old Port Royal settlers, who married a maid of honor to Henrietta Maria) to deliver Fort Louis, Sable Island, into the hands of the English—a design which, owing to the loyalty of Charles Latour, (his son) was frustrated. Mr. MURDOCH has so far performed his task with much care. His style of writing, although somewhat monotonous, is yet clear and simple. He never rises to anything approaching eloquence, but, on the other hand, he never wearies his readers by affected fine writing. His punctuation is almost painfully minute, and much of the purely narrative portion of his work lacks variety of expression and is thereby rendered somewhat heavy to ordinary readers. Still, the volume before us cannot be regarded as a very valuable addition to the literature of Nova Scotia, and we trust Mr. MURDOCH may find no serious hindrances towards completing what he has so carefully begun.

THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR B. N. AMERICA.

We continue our extracts upon this topic from a leading English periodical, and commend the same to the careful perusal of our readers.

The property qualification of the members of the Council, as was said, is to be continuous: on its failure (an incident too common amidst the changes and chances of colonial life) the member is to forfeit his seat and his position. The constitution provides that, if any question arises as to the qualification of a councillor, it shall be determined by the Council; and it is not very likely that those who sail in the same somewhat fragile bark will be extreme to mark the failure of their colleague's qualification, unless it be in a time of great party excitement. Otherwise it is hard to imagine a severer test of a man's veracity and integrity than a law threatening him with what would be in a fact a penal degradation upon his ceasing to make a return of his income above a certain amount. Our own property qualification for the House of Commons was relinquished, it is believed, partly on the ground that the qualifications tendered were sometimes of a merely colourable kind.

There seems good reason to doubt whether Providence, in ordering the course of man's political development, has willed that aristocracy should be extended to the New World, which appears to present on the one hand none of the conditions historically known as essential to the existence of such an institution; and, on the other hand, none of the political exigencies which, in the progress of a feudal monarchy in Europe towards constitutional liberty, the action of the nobility, as an intermediate power between the king and the people, unquestionably supplied. And, if this institution is really alien to these communities, it will be, when infused into their veins, a political and social poison, which nature may perhaps expel by an effort as violent and terrible as that by which the poison of slavery is now being thrown off. It behoves the legislator, therefore, before he takes any step in this direction, to cast all prejudice and everything that is merely of the hour aside, and deliberately to assure himself that his work will be permanently good. * * * In the case of British North America, if an Executive with a nominee senate is placed in opposition to a popular assembly, the Executive having no standing army, the chances are that when the nominee senate has become sufficiently obstructive and corrupt to provoke general hatred, the Government will be overturned. * * * Government by party, according to the English model, is also distinctly contemplated; for a rather *naïve* provision is made that the claims of the Opposition shall not be overlooked in the first appointment of members to the Legislative Council. The parties of England are great historical parties, and embody real principles. In colonies there are no historical parties, nor, as the feudal principles on which the Tory party rests have never obtained a footing, is there any difference of principle, on which a real party division can be based. The so-called parties are consequently mere cabals, and, if a title of what the colonial journals say is to be believed, cabals, not only

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New Brunswick

of the most factious, but of the most mercenary kind. The Government which emanate from these are for the same reason totally devoid of stability; and if any really great questions were concerned the consequences would be disastrous. In the United States, in like manner, the parties were devoid of significance and dignity till the question of slavery, long suppressed and excluded from legislative discussion, forced itself into the foreground, when the struggle of factions for office merged at once in a civil war.

* * * The executive government is, in words before quoted, "vested in the sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland," and is "to be administered according to the well-understood principles of the British constitution, by the sovereign personally, or by the representative of the sovereign duly authorized." The authors of this solemn declaration know perfectly well that they would never permit the representative of the British sovereign, much less the sovereign personally, to perform a single act of government. In England, their original seat, these constitutional fictions, tacitly interpreted by practice, are comparatively unobjectionable. They are analogous to the legal fictions by which the spirit of our old law was liberalized, when prejudice would not permit an alteration of its consecrated forms. But when they are transplanted, and embodied in the written enactments of a new constitution, they become at once degrading and injurious. Put the reality in place of the figment in the case before us—say, in plain and honest terms, that an executive power of limits undefined by the constitution, together with the power of nominating the Upper House of the Legislature, shall be vested in the leader of the party having the majority for the time being, whose acts shall be called those of the Crown—and the whole arrangement will assume a very different complexion. Politics are not so opposite in their nature to any other department of human action as to admit of the advantageous or even the innocuous use of hypocrisy and self-delusion.

And this brings us to the last point we have here to mention. The powers of the Northern American Parliament are expressed to be conferred with a due reservation of the "sovereignty of England." It has become necessary without delay to ascertain in what, practically speaking, this sovereignty consists. * * * That a British dependency claiming to be an integral part of the empire, and requiring to be defended as such by British arms, should impose protective duties on British goods, is surely not only injurious to the Imperial Government, but ignominious. Yet this Canada does, and she laughs all complaints to scorn. Assuredly a complete resettlement of the Northern American colonies ought not to be ratified without an express engagement, one way or the other, on this point.

Local and other Items.

The Department of the Minister of Finance, Canada, has issued an interesting statement "explanatory of the Financial position of Canada, and a comparison thereof with the position of the other British North American Colonies." The funded debt of Canada in 1864 was \$61,824,367, to a sinking fund of \$1,536,792, leaving a net funded debt of \$60,287,575. The revenue of Nova Scotia in 1863, was \$1,185,629, while that of Canada was \$9,769,316. As regards expenditure, however, this Province had in 1863 a surplus of more than \$100,000, whereas Canada during the same period went nearly a million into debt. The Canadian returns for 1864, however, shew an increase of more than a million in the revenue, and a decrease in the expenditure of over £100,000. The revenue of Canada was, in 1863, more than eight times that of Nova Scotia, and more than ten times that of New Brunswick, the joint revenues of New Brunswick and P. E. Island being less than that of this Province by more than \$88,000. The total population of British North America, as calculated to the beginning of 1864, was 3,628,151, of which 2,783,079 must be credited to Canada. The rate of annual increase is, we regret to find, smaller in Nova Scotia than in any other portion of B. N. America, except Newfoundland. It is largest in Canada and New Brunswick. The total area of B. N. America is 419,345 square miles, and up to Dec. 31st, 1863, not fewer than 54,097,993 acres had been disposed of either by sale or grant, leaving 214,282,817 acres in the hands of the Crown. The average population to the square mile is 8.32, while in Nova Scotia it is 18.72, and in Prince Edward Island 40.95. The population of Canada is but 8.40 to the square mile, while in Newfoundland it falls as low as 3.41. The debt of Nova Scotia is \$13.91 per head, that of Canada being \$21.69, and of New Brunswick \$20.91. The corrected average debt per head for the entire population of British North America is \$19.83. The value per head of exports is much larger for Newfoundland and New Brunswick than for any of the other Provinces, and Nova

Scotia imports more largely than New Brunswick by 74 cents per head. The exports from P. E. Island are more valuable than the imports by \$1.32 per head, while the imports of Nova Scotia are in excess of the exports by \$5.09 per head. The average imports of all the Provinces are more valuable than the exports by 76 cents per head.

Even in the British House of Commons we occasionally find men of extreme views talking the most arrant nonsense. But they never obtain the ear of the House unless their nonsense is, to a certain extent, amusing. Mr. WHALLEY's remarks about recruiting are more amusing than any it has for some time been our good fortune to peruse. "It was still," thought Mr. WHALLEY, "some-what doubtful how far members of the British army belonging to the Roman Catholic religion, could be relied on in certain emergencies." We wonder what "emergencies" Mr. WHALLEY could possibly have had in his mind's eye. Imagine a British soldier being placed, by virtue of his profession, in an "emergency" which necessitated a nice calculation upon the relative merits of the doctrines of the real presence and purgatory, versus the teaching of the thirty-nine Articles! The chances are—he would either be shot down by a foe, or consigned to a friendly guard-room, before he had time to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion one way or the other. But, men of the WHALLEY stamp are useful in their way, albeit they occasionally talk nonsense of the most original kind.

We are glad to find that the question of sewerage is about to receive at the hands of the City Council that attention to which it is so justly entitled, and we trust that no questions about retrenchment will be allowed to interfere with the absolute necessity of a thorough reform in the drainage of Halifax. The pipes laid down in our main streets were calculated for the requirements of about 10,000 people, and although the population of the city is now nearer 30,000, the main drainage has been little, if at all increased. This is not a question of dollars but of life and death. We have, thank God, hitherto been spared the ravages of pestilence, but let us not delay a proper system of sewerage until reminded of our shortcomings by disease and death. There is perhaps no city in the world possessing more natural advantages for complete drainage than Halifax, and we hope to see a thorough reform effected before the hot weather sets in. Delay in this matter may cause us bitter though unavailing regret.

We have received a "Journal of proceedings of the First Annual Session of the Worthy Provincial Grand Lodge of the order of British Templars in the Province of Nova Scotia." The Committee on the state of the Order in this Province, recommend a variety of things. Here are some of them:—

To continue and increase our present prosperity, your committee recommend, 1st, Regular attendance at Lodge meetings. 2, Comfortable Lodge rooms. 3, Appropriate Regalia. 4, Obedience to the Constitution. 5, Due performance of our sublime Ritual. 6, Obtaining the Degrees. 7, Brotherly and polite conduct among members. 8, The avoidance of unprofitable discussion in Lodges. 9, Temperance zeal. 10, Love of our order. 11, Reading the Annual Reports to the Lodges and suitable conversations upon them. 12, Consistent regard for our pledge and obligation. 13, The interchange of visits between Lodges. 14, The union of Lodges for purposes of public demonstration. 15, Punctuality in forwarding to the proper officer the Quarterly Dues and Reports. 16, That the \$3 belonging to the W. P. G. Lodge from each Charter fee be paid to the Provincial Deputy W. C. Templar, together with the \$3 that come to him as per the Constitution. All of which is submitted in F. H. and C.

We trust that recommendations 4 and 8 may be strictly adopted.

The *Express* informs us that "Moore's poem—'The Epicurean,' has been done into French verse." Our contemporary should have read, or at least seen 'The Epicurean,' before volunteering to inform the public as to the nature of the work. Everyone moderately conversant with English literature knows that 'The Epicurean' is not a poem, but a very charming prose work.

Opposite, on the site of the Admiralty, stood Peterborough House, from the roof of which Archbishop Usher attempted to witness the execution. We read in Parr's life of Usher: "At the time of his Majesty's murder, the Lady Peterborough's house (where my lord then lived) being just over against Charing Cross, divers of the court's gentlemen and servants got upon the leads of the house, from whence they could see plainly what was acting before Whitehall. The primates, who could not stand the sight, fainted, was taken down and put on his bed."

Philip Henry, who also witnessed the execution, related that at the instant when the blow was given, there was "such a dismal universal groan among the thousands of people that were within the sight of it (as it were, with one consent), as he never heard before, and desired he might never hear the like again, nor see such a cause for it."

There is doubtless an inclination on the part of the royalist historians to exaggerate the sorrow and rage of the nation in regard to the putting to death of the king. Hume would have us believe that "women cast forth the unaimed fruit of their womb when they learned it; and others fell into convulsions, or sank into such a melancholy as attended them to their graves; and that some, unfaithful of themselves, as though they could not or would not survive their beloved prince, suddenly fell down dead." This is a high colouring about this; yet, undoubtedly, among a large section of the people a profound grief prevailed. There is even a story of a learned Fellow of All Souls who died of the shock given him by the king's execution. Numbers of the clergy and gentry.—Philip Henry, Usher, and Evelyn, among them,—always kept the anniversary of the day as a strict fast, and this custom was observed during many years. The first Lord Holland used to relate that, during the life of his father, Sir Stephen Fox, upon its return, the 30th of January, the waistcoat of the house used to be hung with black, and no meal of any sort permitted until after midnight.

The loyalty of Westminster School was proved beyond question at this time. "We really were King's Scholars, as well as called so," says South, proudly. "Nay, upon that very day, that black and eternally infamous day of the king's murder, I myself heard, and am now convinced that the king was publicly prayed for in this school, but an hour or two at most before his sacred head was struck off." At such a time, any expression of attachment to the king, or sympathy with his fate, had its dangers. We read that immediately after the decapitation, Hewson, (originally a cobbler, afterwards a member of Cromwell's Parliament, and a colonel in the army) went with a party of horse from Charing Cross to the Royal Exchange, proclaiming, as he went, "that whosoever should say that Charles Stuart died wrongfully should suffer present death."

After the execution, the king's body was embalmed and removed to Windsor for interment. The Parliament sanctioned the expenditure of not more than five hundred pounds upon the funeral. No religious ceremony took place; the burial service being at that time prohibited. No tablet or inscription marked the last resting-place of royalty. "I cannot," says Bishop Kennet, "but commend the piety of those gentlemen employed to bear the body of King Charles I. who, making a view of St. George's chapel in Windsor to find the most fit and honourable place of burial, declined at first the tomb-house built by Cardinal Wolsey, as supposing King Henry VIII. was buried there, in regard his majesty would upon occasional discourse express some dislike of King Henry's proceedings in misapplying those vast revenues the suppressed abbies, monasteries, and other religious houses were endowed with."

Charles was said in his lifetime to have registered a vow, that if it pleased Heaven to restore him to his "kingly rights," and re-establish him upon the throne, he would give back to the Church all the impropriations then held by the Crown; and whatsoever lands had been taken from any episcopal see, or any cathedral or collegiate church, from any abbey or other religious house, he promised thereafter to hold from the Church under such reasonable fines and rents as should be determined by some conscientious persons, whom he proposed to choose with all upright hearts, to direct him in that particular. "The scruples of the king's friends seem to have been removed, however. The coffins deposited in a vault in the centre of the choir containing two coffins—believed to be those of King Henry VIII. and Jane Seymour.

To quote Clarendon: "This unparalleled murder and parricide was committed . . . in the forty and ninth year of his age, and when he had such excellent health, and so great vigor of body, that when his murderers caused him to be opened (which they did), and were sorry of them present at it with great curiosity," they confessed and declared "that no man had ever all his vital parts so perfect and unhurt; and that he seemed to be of so admirable a composition and constitution, that he would probably have lived as long as nature could subsist."

The coffin of King Charles had been seen on one occasion during the reign of William III., when the vault was opened for the interment of one of the Princess Anne's numerous children; but afterwards it seems to have remained altogether unnoticed, until indeed some doubt and question began to arise as to the exact spot in which the royal remains had been deposited. But in 1813 the vault was once more opened, on the occasion of the funeral of the Duchess of Brunswick, the sister of George III. Before the re-closing of the vault, search was made for the coffin of King Charles, in the presence of the Prince-Regent, the Duke of Cumberland, the Dean of Windsor, Sir Henry Hallford, and others. The heavy coffin was found, and partially opened, and Sir Henry Hallford published afterwards "An Account of what appeared on opening the coffin of King Charles I." (1813). The body was found in tolerably good condition amongst the gums and resins which had been employed to preserve it. "At length the whole face was disengaged from its covering. The complexion of the skin was dark and discoloured. The forehead and temples had little or nothing of their muscular substance; the cartilage of the nose was gone; the left eye in the first moment of exposure was open and full, though it vanished almost immediately, and the pointed beard was perfect. The shape of the face was long oval; many of the teeth remained . . . When the head had been entirely disengaged from the attachments which confined it, it was found to be loose, and without any difficulty was taken up and held to view . . . The back part of the scalp was perfect, and had a remarkable fresh appearance; the pores of the skin being more distinct, as they usually are when soaked in moisture; and the tendons and ligaments of the neck were of considerable substance and firmness. The hair was

thick at the back part of the head, and in appearance nearly black . . . On holding up the head to examine the place of separation from the body, the muscles of the neck had evidently retracted themselves considerably; and the fourth cervical vertebra we found to be cut through its substance transversely, leaving the surfaces of the divided portions perfectly smooth and even." Doubtless in the eyes of many people this curious investigation will wear the semblance of an act of gross desecration. But antiquarianism is, as a rule, rather unobscured; heedless what approaches it may incur, provided its curiosity is satisfied. And certainly it has to be said that, after the Regent's *post-mortem* inquest upon the King, all doubt as to his place of interment may be considered as completely ended.

Byron, it may be noted, commemorated the examination in St. George's Chapel in lines, perhaps needlessly, foolishly violent, composed "On the occasion of his Royal Highness the Prince-Regent being seen standing between the coffins of Henry VIII. and Charles I. in the royal vault at Windsor."

Famed for contemptuous breach of sacred ties,
By heedless Charles see heartless Henry lies;
Between them stands another so-called thing—
It moves, it reigns—in all but name, a king:

Charles to his people, Henry to his wife,
In him the double tyrant starts to life;
Justice and Death have mixed their dust in vain,
Each royal vampire wakes to life again.
Ah, what can tombs avail! since these disgorge
The blood and dust of both—to mould a George!
(To be concluded.)

AN M. D.'S TALE.

"My dear fellow," said I, passing my arm through my friend's, as we left Lady L.'s hall together, "I don't like your dancing so much with that girl in blue."

"That cerulean angel, you mean," said Jack; "but the fact is, you are jealous."

"It is not much use for a man who starts for India to-morrow to be jealous of any one he leaves behind, more especially if he has; mark his fortune before he can keep a wife. But there is no possible reason why you should not marry, with that Blackmore property of yours, and give 'em hostages to fortune, as saith my Lord Bacon; only I hope you will not choose that little girl in blue."

"Well, Tracy, here we are at the chambers; you shall give your reasons why a man should not marry a lady dressed in blue, over a pipe.—So long as she doesn't wear blue stockings to match, I can't see anything to object to in it."

"Oh, the bliss of an evening pipe with the friend of your heart! We found a snug fire burning, swept away some books and papers to the sofa, settled our tumblers at our elbows, and ourselves in roomly slippers and easy-chairs, and were soon in a silent cloud-protected Olympus."

"Now," said my friend (having doubtless emerged from a dreamland tenanted by an hour in blue tarnation), "what makes you choose my partner of to-night? I suppose I had no business to engross her for several dances, you will say; but her style of dancing suits me; and when a *parson* means nothing serious, women don't mind being booked for several waltzes. I am not an eldest son, you know, and Mount-chapel did not slow in the horizon, all the evening."

"I did not mean that," I replied; "you can settle all that with her *chaperone*."

"Didn't you like her blue gaiter, then?" he went on. "Think of the blue veils that loitered 'slowly-drawn' round Mount Ida, man, and what goddesses were concealed behind them."

"Sweet creatures in blue are much the same to me as sweet things in pink, Jack. The only blue things I dislike are blue pills."

"And devils," added he. "Is it her face you carp at, or her figure, or her eyes, or what?"

"Now you have it: I can't stand her eyes."

"Not stand her eyes?" he exclaimed in astonishment, puffing out volumes of smoke. "I don't much wonder at that, for I am sure I cannot. But they are heaven's own blue, and in their depths—"

and then he clasped his hands and went into a silent ecstasy, as is the wont of lovers.

"Well," said I, "you need not fancy me the green-eyed monster, for I am quite indifferent to their colour; but, seriously, I don't like their flash."

"It does look a man through," replied the smitten Jack.

"I don't suppose you are very hard hit yet, or it would be no use my telling you—she has madness in her."

"Good heavens! how can you tell? Did you ever see her before? Do you know anything of her family?"

"Not I; I never met her before to-night; but it is little use her a man going out to India, the land of madness, unless he has studied mental disease, and the eye is the surest criterion of it. I would not see a friend of mine marry that girl for a great deal."

"My dear Tracy, you are far too solemn about it; who is going to marry her, in the first place? and in the next, I am not such a blind believer in science as to think the eye the seat of reason, nor yet so incredulous, as to deem all you tell me 'my eye.'"

"It is really no laughing matter," I replied. "The eye is the mirror of the soul, if you can only read it rightly. I am confident that the wild excited flash I noticed frequently in those deep violet eyes of a fiery girl (themselves the very colour that bespeak immense imagination and enthusiasm) forebodes no good hereafter. Excite her, and you would raise a storm in a moment. I have seen a woman of her temperament before now, in the hospital, make her teeth meet in the board at the head of her bed. Give her a continuance of excitement, and cunning will lead its wiles to mania. Hence arises the direst form of mental aberration—the catatonic of marble externals, the passions of a fury working within. Such a woman must be rigorously confined, or she will work a demon's masterpiece."

"There, Tracy, enough!" he said, and we gaily changed the topic,

for I had spoken my mind, and was willing enough to leave such a subject more especially when I remembered that it was our last night.

After a good deal of chat, and in a very thick atmosphere of smoke, I wished him farewell deep in the small hours, as an Englishman does, without any display of feeling, though we knew it would be at least a ten years' parting. "Good-bye, old boy," I said; "and me a line now and then, and tell me when your wings are clipped."

"Good-bye, my dear Tracy; be quick and kill off all the Nabobs. One last word of advice,—be sure you don't marry a Begum in blue!"

Next morning the good ship "Glendower" bore me slowly to my adopted country. For fourteen years I ministered to enlarged livers, and mingled in the gaiety of Indian life at a pleasant station. Having left few friends behind me, I seldom heard much domestic intelligence from the old country. "You ought to have at least three sisters if you go to India; no letters are so amusing after all, as theirs. One mail came wedding cards indeed from the Hon. John Francis Arden, my old friend Jack, and Mrs. J. F. Arden, *née* Julia Harrington. I wrote and congratulated him duly. Then the mutiny burst like a meteor on the country; I was besieged in a compound at R— with a handful of Europeans. The Sepoys battered at us from an entrenchment hastily thrown up. We sallied out and stormed it; I saw a tall mutineer in front, as I leapt through their rattle embrasure, and made at him with my regulation blade. It shivered on his wooden shield; he raised his tulwar, and next moment I should have been cut down, but ere the blow fell my supporters had planted a sheaf of bayonets in his breast. I rushed on, but a ball laid me low, and when I recovered consciousness, I found the day our own, our compound relieved, and myself ordered off to England next mail, as the only chance for my life.

It was a dull foggy November evening when I reached London. To a man who has long been expatriated no solitude is greater than Bond Street; it was with the greatest joy therefore that I fell in with Arden two days after my arrival. He was now in Parliament, and a very glutton of statistics. It was soon settled that after I had finished my business in town I should visit him at Blackmoor.

A few days afterwards I was whirled along the South Western to Devonshire. Working, with its melancholy grave-stones, looking like so many white garden pyres stuck in a park, as you hurry past, was left behind; the vast Fleet Pond was crossed; soon we were in the dreary country of Templecombe and Milborne Port. Who on earth lives there, that trains should require to stop in that wilderness? Then we had a glimpse of Ford Abbey, another nap, and I awoke to find myself flying through the cider orchards and valleys round Honiton. The Blackmoor carriage soon brought me to the Hall, and I descended light and refreshed, like Hercules himself, to the dining-room.

It was not a large party, and I had a particularly silent partner, who was more attentive to the *entrées* than to your humble servant, so I had leisure to contemplate Mrs. Arden. She was a very pretty blonde, rose-checked, bright-eyed, and smiling at every word she uttered. Jack was always a good-humoured fellow, I reflected; here for once you see the husband mirrored in the wife; who could ever be snappish to that woman, who looks like the caricature of cheerfulness?

We adjourned to the drawing-room. Some one sang "*Di tanti palpiti*." I was leisurely chatting to Mrs. Arden, and thinking what a lucky fellow Jack was to marry such a pretty and sensible woman, when the final cadence seemed to touch a long silent chord within me. Joining the group round the piano, I found Miss Vandeleur at the instrument.

Kate was an old flame, and we were speedily on the best of terms. She was strapping with the Awdry's she told me, at Kilton Park.—Awdry himself soon came up, and, seeing how matters stood, asked me over to look up the pheasants for a few days.

Jack had evidently forgotten all about our conversation on madness before I left home so many years ago, and I could not quite ask him whether he married the obnoxious lady I had inveighed against that evening. Neither could I satisfy myself whether Mrs. Arden were that lady. Every now and then I fancied a shade came over her usual serenity. It might be an index of the terrible power slumbering within, or again, I thought prosaically, it might be indigestion.

The Ardens drove me over to Kilton, and I was soon head-over-ears in love with Kate Vandeleur. I am not going to inflict upon you our lovenaking; suffice it to say that in a week Kate and I were engaged.

I had not paid much attention to the pheasants, and, beyond fancying Mrs. Awdry rather a shrew, had found no leisure for aught but the attentions a man must show a pretty girl in a country house, particularly when he is engaged to her. One evening in December, in the pleasant glow of the large drawing-room, Kate and I were chatting at the piano, oblivious of else than ourselves, when she suddenly looked up and saw Mrs. Awdry leave her work-table and walk to the west window.

Kate jumped up and ran to her.

"My dear Mrs. Awdry! six-fifty, and we have not gone upstairs even! What will your husband say?"

"Never mind, Miss Vandeleur; come here."

The two stood together in the embrasure of the window, and I could not help admiring them from my snug seat at the fire. They were about the same stature; but how different in face! The faint lamp burning in the window amongst the camellias and cyprus, flung its pale glow upon their countenances, and while Mrs. Awdry was solemn and awe-struck, with her flaxen hair gathered into a simple mass behind, Kate was laughing turgively, and wreathed in smiles for my benefit, and her dark hair and eyebrows stood out in strong relief against the melow amber light.

"Do you see those gloomy clouds away in the west, Miss Vandeleur?"

"To be sure, Mrs. Awdry; but how dark and chilly they are. Shall I light your candle?"

"Stop here, child," said Mrs. Awdry, seizing Kate's arm earnestly, "do you believe in omens?" and then she pointed to the dark background, while Kate, now somewhat awe-struck too, followed her glance.

A light radiance seemed floating in the west. Soon a bright point seemed struggling on through the sky, a moment more and the full moon burst forth in all its splendour, and what seemed clouds proved to be mountains, down which a flood of soft light poured, showing us a

fair prospect of valley and hill, through which every now and then a roof glistened, or a torrent flashed down the precipice like a stream of silver. Then a cloud-veil drifted over the moon, and all again became obscure.

"How very beautiful!" exclaimed Kate, and we were all silent for a moment.

Something seemed to have excited Mrs. Awdry strangely, for she still held Kate and pointed to the west.

"Well, I will light candles," said that young lady, and having done so joined me at the fireside.

A few minutes more and the gong at the top of the stairs roared its summons to dinner. How I hate gongs! They are detestable at dinner-time, but who shall describe their horror in the morning? You are in the calmest of dreams; a moment more and the Princess Camaralzaman will lay her hand in yours, when "rooh! ooh! ooh!" out rings that frightful tocsin, and you leap up most valiantly and snatch at what should be a sword, to find that you have been tricked, and that, now you are once out of bed, it is no use getting in again. My malison on the whole race of gongs! from the little ones you see advertised "to alarm burglars," to those full-blown monstrosities "able to rouse a whole parish."

Dinner passed in a mood less merry than usual. Mrs. Awdry seemed very *distrainé*. Awdry himself, a man of rather obtuse perceptions, conversed with Mrs. Arden of magistrates' business and shorthorns. Making every allowance for her weariness of these topics, I, who was listening to Jack, could see that his wife was ill at ease about something else. Mrs. Awdry had some whim about leaving one of the dining-room windows with the blind up and no shutters drawn. It was just behind me and opposite Mrs. Arden; I glanced round and saw the moon "riding apparent queen" among the stars. Then I looked at Jack's wife. Her eyes wandered restlessly to the window, and then to Mrs. Awdry, but she said nothing.

When the womankind retired at the close of the evening, Jack and our entertainer withdrew to the gun-room, situated at the other end of the house, for a cigar. I felt unaccountably sleepy, and sought my room.

After winding my watch up and kicking off my shoes, something drew me to the window. I raised the blind and swept back the curtains. It was very clear and starlit. Just below a gravel-walk, shining between two dark lawns, let off to the shrubberies. An ominous send flew every now and then over the moon. "A nice night for the poachers," I thought, when suddenly a woman flitted on the walk before me.

(To be concluded.)



NEW BRUNSWICK.

MONEY ORDER NOTICE.

MONEY ORDER INTERCHANGE will commence between NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA on the 1st day of April, 1865.

The offices authorized to issue and pay Orders, under such Interchange, are:—The Money Order Offices of Nova Scotia, and the New Brunswick Offices at:—Bathurst, Bond, Chatham, Dalhousie, Fredericton, Grand Falls, Hillsborough, Newcastle, Richibucto, Sackville, Shediac, Saint Andrews, Saint John, Sussex Vale, Woodstock.

Commission:—Same as that between Canada, P. E. Island, and Newfoundland. J. S. THOMPSON, Supt.

M. O. Office, Halifax, Nova Scotia, }
16th March, 1865. }



TO BUILDERS AND ECONOMISTS.

A New supply of American Parlour GRATES —all sizes. Superior Scotch Cooking STOVES—American Stoves. For sale at the

CITY STOVE STORE,

No. 144 Hollis Street, near the Halifax Hotel. March 25.

The BULLFROG is published every Saturday at one o'clock, P. M., by T. CHAMBERLAIN, 176 Argyle Street. Terms \$1 per annum, 6 Copies to one Post Office \$5; 7 Copies and over, 80 cts. per annum for each Copy, invariably in advance. Subscribers not renewing their subscription within a reasonable time will have their names struck off the list. A limited number of advertisements will be inserted at the usual rates.

☞ All descriptions of job work neatly and promptly executed.