

# THE BULLFROG.

Nec sumit aut ponit securus.  
Arbitrio popularis aures.—Hor.

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## ENGLAND, CANADA, AND THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

A careful study of the rise, progress, and downfall of the Federation Scheme, cannot fail to impress dispassionate thinkers with a sense of misgiving as to the working of Responsible Government in young, thinly populated Colonies. Responsible Government cannot, after all, be regarded save as a mere hauberk—a plaything granted us by an indulgent parent in order to keep us quiet. When England gave us self government, she did so merely to gratify a whim on our part: she regarded the North American Colonies as poor relations whom she was in honor bound to support at any terms consistent with her own peace and quietness. But England did not take the trouble to consider that, in giving us liberty to play at Lords and Commons, she was granting something which we could not in principle carry out. So long as all went smoothly English statesmen were only too glad to let us settle our own affairs in any way we thought proper, provided we did not take up the time of the House of Commons. But beyond this, neither the Home Government nor the British people ever considered us as independent as we came to consider ourselves, and from the tone of the English press it is clear that our individuality as a Province is a thing never practically considered across the Atlantic. The possession of Canada adds something to the prestige of England, and the possession of Halifax adds materially to her conveniences, but beyond this, comparatively little is known of the several portions of British North America. It was, therefore, most natural that the proposal of *Canada* to consolidate British Empire in the West should have been regarded by English statesmen with unqualified approval; but, at the same time, it is not difficult to perceive that Englishmen all but ignore the existence of the Lower Provinces. When it was officially announced that *Canada* was in favor of Union, the English mind saw only the magnitude of the scheme, and never paused to reflect upon the probable consequences resulting from the working of Responsible Government in the smaller colonies. Englishmen cannot, at the present moment, comprehend that there is in Provinces such as Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, any necessity whatever for liberals and conservatives, black rods, and speakers, and all the cumbrous machinery of mock Lords and Commons. Nor is this at all strange—for who can repress a smile while thinking of such matters in connection with a population of 300,000? Hear what the *Times* says upon this subject:

"We had given all that was useful for self government; we supplemented our gift by adding what was merely ornamental. We gave to colonies Responsible Government, founded on the pattern of Responsible Parliamentary Government in England. That is, in countries thinly peopled, with no rich educated class, with no class possessing at once sufficient leisure and sufficient intelligence to attend to politics with any beneficial results, we made Departmental offices that demanded from their holders industry, punctuality, knowledge of business, and strict honesty, the prizes of a spurious Parliamentary eloquence, and a genuine Parliamentary jobbing. \* \* \* Life—the life of a large, bustling, active, and irritable class, is engrossed by the mutual struggles of office-hunters and office-holders; and these struggles go on under circumstances at once so lamentable and so ludicrous that we can hardly realize them in our conceptions." The conceptions of Englishmen cannot, we imagine, realize anything "at once so lamentable and so ludicrous" as the position now occupied by the delegates from the Maritime Provinces. How any men of ordinary sagacity could have had the hardihood to present themselves before the Imperial Government as the representatives of a people on a question which the people had never heard discussed, is a matter certainly beyond the

conception of ordinary Englishmen. What will the Imperial Government think of the workings of Responsible Government in these Provinces, when it appears that not even a coalition of the leaders of parties in any way reflects public opinion upon a scheme signed and sealed in the name of the people? We await England's verdict upon this point with considerable interest. The fact of the matter is—we are in a false position. We govern ourselves, and yet neither the English people nor the English press attach any importance to the fact. *Canada*, and *Canada* only, has the ear of the British public, and no man knows this better than Lord MOSCK. Whether we read his despatches or the English newspapers we find *Canada* only considered. (This seems a real hardship when we come to consider that but a few short years ago the master minds of Europe were awe-struck while contemplating our gigantic "column of coal.") It is impossible to study the blue book upon "Union of the Colonies" without noting the *ex cathedra* tone of *Canada* throughout the whole discussion. It is obvious that the Canadian statesmen knew their strength and that their course of action had been resolved upon before they ever met the delegates from the Maritime Provinces, formally or informally. Their "wish" is first put forth in a few words as possible, "I have the honor to inform you that it is the wish of the Canadian Government to send a Delegation to attend the Conference." Then, we have the Canadian Committee hinting at the great advantages to be derived from the presence of Canadians among the statesmen of the Lower Provinces: "they consider that very great advantage will flow from the opportunity that will be then afforded of considering the practicability of uniting under one Government the respective Provinces, and should it be found that a reasonable prospect exists of such an Union being practicable, the Committee consider that it would be possible, &c., &c." The Canadians, having effectually killed the scheme planned by the Lower Provinces in their several Assemblies—(if it were deemed necessary that the appointment of delegates to consider the lesser Union should rest with the House of Assembly, why was not the latter reassembled to consider the appointment of delegates authorized to consider the larger Union)—now take the lead, and "have the honor to advise and submit, that the several Governments be invited to appoint Delegates, &c., &c."

If we turn to the English press we find its columns teeming with allusions to *Canada*, and *Canada* only. In another place our readers will find an article extracted from the *Saturday Review* which altogether ignores the existence of any independence among the Maritime Provinces. "It is at any rate certain that the Conference which sat at Quebec was assembled by the express invitation of the Governor General of *Canada* acting, of course, with the fullest sanction of his superiors." Again:—"Lord MOSCK's speech at the opening of the Provincial Parliament does full justice to the most momentous question which the Canadians have ever had to decide for themselves." It is tolerably clear that the *Saturday Review*, in common with the *Times* and most of the leading English journals, argues the question of Federation as though no interests other than those of the Canadians could possibly be at stake—indeed, the following passage seems to imply that should British pressure be deemed advisable, it may possibly assume the form of coercion. "There has never, since the report of the Conference was published, been much doubt that all the Provincial Legislatures would ratify the work of their leading statesmen; and now that an American fleet may be looked for upon the Lakes, and that American custom-house officers will soon block up all the roads of commercial intercourse, any lingering hesitation as to the expediency of Union must be effectually banished from the Colonial mind." We do not, of course, for one instant suppose that England would treat lightly the opposition of the Lower Provinces, but we can

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

#### HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

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

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

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

#### THE LEGISLATURE—MINOR DEBATES.

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

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"the matter before the ADJUTANT GENERAL, but no notice was taken of it; and he had finally brought it before the Committee of the House, who had reported in favor of Capt. STEWART receiving \$30. And although that report had been regularly adopted by the House, the money had not yet been paid." It would have been strange indeed had the money been paid upon such grounds—nay more, had the ADJUTANT GENERAL recognized the authority of the House in this matter he would have been guilty of a folly, grave in proportion to the amount of money voted. Does Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL suppose that the House of Assembly could possibly be recognised as an authority upon militia matters by the ADJUTANT GENERAL, or by any other commissioned officer? If so, he is grievously mistaken. Had the ADJUTANT GENERAL acted upon any authority other than that of the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, he would have most justly laid himself open to severe censure. But Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL, wishes "to ascertain whether there is a power superior to that of the Legislature, and thinks it quite time that the Government should take the matter in hand, and let the ADJUTANT GENERAL know that he must obey the House." There is, in reality, no power superior to that of the Legislature, save the power of the Crown, but that is no reason why the Legislature should needlessly interfere with the working of a department under the immediate control of the Crown. The ADJUTANT GENERAL is not bound to obey the House, any more than he is bound to read its debates. Imagine, were such a thing possible, the ADJUTANT GENERAL of the British Army acting upon the decision of a Committee of the House of Commons, independently of the Duke of CAMBRIDGE! The supposition is preposterous and absurd, and we are almost led to suppose that the Messrs. CAMPBELL are anxious that militia matters should be so regulated as to afford political capital for Provincial politicians. From any such arrangement, good Lord deliver us.

The honorable member for Victoria had a sorrowful tale to tell. He had not only a grievance "relating to charges made for Crown lands," but his speeches, made towards the close of last session, had not been reported, and "he should like to know whether the Government put their hands upon the reporter and directed him what to publish, and what to repress." This was, as the honorable member justly termed it, a question of "a delicate nature," but the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, while acknowledging Mr. CAMPBELL'S case as one of "some hardship," thought "it was more the result of accident than design"—an opinion in which Mr. ARCHIBALD cordially coincided.

To our thinking, the House made a poor figure while haggling over the expenses incurred in transporting troops to Sydney, for the purpose of restoring order among the mining population. The total expense thus incurred was only £538, half of which sum had been paid by the mining associations, and half by the Local Government. Upon this subject the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY very sensibly remarked: "In consequence of the difficulty at the mines, the Province had lost considerably, the amount of coal exported having been necessarily very much less than it otherwise would have been. If the difficulty, however, had not been promptly remedied the consequences might have been much worse." This statement was manly, sensible, and dignified, and we are at a loss to discern the wisdom which led the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY to spoil it by the following passage: "The Government, however, had not been aware that they would have been asked to make payment in such a case, until their attention was called to it by the Imperial authorities." What need was there for such palpable "trimming?" Is not the Government strong enough to act from conviction at a crisis, and to take prompt measures to prevent the development of an admitted evil, without afterwards excusing itself concerning a paltry £269? Was it ab-

solutely necessary that the PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, after having explained the action of the Government in a manner perfectly satisfactory to the common sense of the House, should all but apologize for what he had done, and seek refuge in a supposition which no one without the House would have entertained a moment. And all this, because Mr. LOCKE thought proper to inquire into a subject upon the merits of which every one, except Mr. LOCKE, was accurately informed. Of the magnitude of Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL'S views, we can form some idea from his remark that, "enormous expense" might have been saved, if the service of the transfer of the troops had been put up to tender and contract." Mr. STEWART CAMPBELL should be made FINANCIAL SECRETARY. A man that sees a possibility of saving his country "enormous expense" upon a service which costs the country £269, careenry, must be of a temperament sanguine in the extreme. Mr. PRYOR, took the most liberal view of the case, viz.: "the emergency was such as to render the idea of tender impossible. The troops had to be sent with great despatch, and there was only one establishment in Halifax capable of undertaking the service. He presumed the authorities made the best possible terms with them that could be made." From our experience of Nova Scotians we have no doubt that Mr. PAYON'S concluding remark was perfectly fair.

The mention of the "Dublin Exhibition" brought Mr. MILLER before the House in a somewhat peevish, obstructive light. This gentleman would seem to be in Nova Scotia what Mr. ROEBUCK is in England. He is rarely quiet, and may be said to represent the outward cuticle of the body of his countrymen—highly sensitive, and irritable—useful and ornamental, but superficial, and easily rubbed off without detriment to the constitution. We cannot, but admire Mr. MILLER'S pluck, in invariably opposing everything and everybody. He is always confronting a foe of some sort, and it is not strange that he should occasionally come to grief. He came to grief most signally upon the "Dublin Exhibition" question, simply because he had taken no pains to understand its probable bearings upon the interests of this Province. It is to the interest of everyone that Nova Scotia should make a fair show at the coming Exhibition, and any attempt to arraign town against country, or country against town, seems to us childish in the extreme. It is but natural that in a Province such as ours,—the whole population of which is not more than ten times the population of Halifax—the most fitting men, scientific or otherwise, should be found in the Metropolis. If Dr. HAMILTON, or Mr. MILLER, can name any men better fitted to serve upon the Committee than those already appointed—let them do so, and we doubt not the merits of their nominees will be impartially dealt with. For our part, we cordially agree with Mr. ARCHIBALD, and consider the amount proposed far too small to ensure full justice being done to our mineral and agricultural resources. The PROVINCIAL SECRETARY was fully justified in saying that our produce, as exhibited in Dublin, "will remain a permanent advertisement in one of the chief cities of the United Kingdom," and it is on this account that no expense should be spared to exhibit Nova Scotia to the best possible advantage; especially in the metropolis of a Country whose sons emigrate so largely to this side of the Atlantic. The views put forth by us five weeks back upon this important question were as follows: "If there is to be another Exhibition, it should be a thorough and exhaustive representation of our resources; but it should not interfere with the still more important work of making our resources known to ourselves. It should be followed by a thoroughly organized system of Emigration; and as there is a greater exodus from Ireland than from any other portion of the United Kingdom, we may make this effort the means of inducing a large stream of Irish Emigration to this Country,

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"which has of late years received no addition to its population from that source. Whatever we do, let us have some definite practical object in view in those exhibitions, and let us not rest until that object is attained."

#### TO CRICKETERS.

It must be evident to any one conversant with cricket as played in the old country, that there is in Halifax no want, physically speaking, of the various elements necessary to make men good cricketers—strength, pluck, activity, and accuracy of eye.—Having granted thus much, we need offer no apology for endeavouring to point out the causes which militate against our young men being on a par, scientifically speaking, with the cricketers of English towns, far below Halifax in size and population. In the first place, to ensure really good cricket, a really good ground is essential—whether for matches or practice. Cricket, when played upon bad ground, not only loses half its interest in the eyes of good players, but becomes a game more or less dangerous to all players, whether good or bad. In cricket, as in fencing, pistol shooting, billiards, &c., much depends upon *verve*, and the best antidote against nervousness is a thorough knowledge of, and reliance upon the weapons at our disposal, whether for purposes of attack or defence. The most scientific billiard players rarely make long breaks when playing upon an untrue table, and a badly balanced pistol will spoil the aim of the most practised eye and hand. And in cricket likewise, an uneven, dangerous ground, puzzles alike batsmen, bowlers, and scouts. For young batsmen especially, a good ground is necessary, because unless a ball rises *true*, all injunctions as to a true *sys* in of defence must be comparatively valueless. A bad ground gives undue advantages to a bowler, inasmuch as it often prevents a loose ball being punished as it deserves, and, in the long run, corrects indifferent balls as often as it spoils good ones. But it is perhaps in fielding that bad ground produces the worst results. Fielding is beyond all doubt the prettiest part of cricket, as it is the most difficult and instructive. A really good man in the field is almost invariably a good man at the wicket, for, to field well, necessitates a batsman's qualifications—a quick eye, a ready hand, a cool head, and an unerring aim. In witnessing first class matches at Lord's, or the Oval, the first thing which strikes the eye of an amateur cricketer is the admirable fielding. A hit that would, with an ordinary field, be good for three or four runs, rarely obtains among professionals more than a single—indeed a hit within the field, no matter where, never involves more than a change of wickets on the part of the striker. When more than a single is obtained, the chances are the ball has been hit fairly out of the field. Now, to field well upon broken, uneven ground, is a thing impossible. No matter how practised the eye, or how cunning the hand, a ball pitching upon a stone, or into a hole, will defeat the wariest scout, and perhaps put him into a bad temper, which may cause him to bungle a ball that plays true, and disgust him for the remainder of the day. To go back then to where we started—a good ground is necessary for good cricket, and the early spring is the time to commence getting a ground in order.

To our thinking, the Common, if properly looked after, might be well adapted to the sport, but this would necessitate a plot being especially set apart, and kept sacred alike from the tramp of horses, and the hoof of oxen. We can hardly fancy that any serious difficulty would be thrown in the way of such an undertaking, provided the gain to the citizens were calmly considered. A more manly, healthful, and withal social game, than cricket can hardly be imagined, and there can be little doubt that, judging from the many matches played last season, it is a game which finds favour in the eyes of a large number of Halifaxians. But before our cricketers can hope to successfully

carry out any important reform, they should, in our opinion, endeavour to pull together. Why should not the various clubs—Halifax, Thistle, Mayflower, &c., unite? In these days, when Union on so large a scale is in so many mouths, we cannot see why there should not be a grand Confederation of Cricketers. We propose that a club should be formed, entitled the "United Halifax Cricket Club," and that all cricketers, whether military or civilian, be invited to become members of the same. In this case, at least, Union would be strength. We have as yet been unable to ascertain to whom the common legitimately belongs. While the troops are being reviewed thereon, certain soldiers have orders to keep the ground on behalf of the military against all comers—an arrangement which almost invariably results in an altercation between the officer in charge of the ground, and some choleric civic functionary who asserts that he is a Common Commissioner, or something equally unintelligible to the crowd. At other times, a party of cricketers is sent to the right about, to make way for the militia. Should a race meeting be contemplated, the authority of the Mayor is brought into play—in short, it is hard to say to whom the Common belongs. One thing, however, seems certain,—the disposal of the common rests with somebody, and to that somebody, be it Lt. GOVERNOR, MAJOR-GENERAL, MAYOR, or any other exalted functionary, or functionaries, let a petition be framed, praying that the "United Halifax Cricket Club" may be allowed to set up, around a space of 300 yards square, a light, moveable, iron fence, and also to lay down the pipes necessary for draining the ground thus enclosed. Were such a petition granted, we see no reason why, with care, attention, and plenty of rolling, a good match and practice ground should not be found on the most cheerful, as well as the most central and convenient site within the city. We cannot imagine the objections which may be raised against this scheme, altogether unsurmountable, but, should such prove the case, some other ground might be selected. However, if the general feeling of Halifax cricketers be in favor of making a move onwards, it is absolutely necessary that immediate steps should be taken in the matter. Our spring is short—our cricket season long, and we should be sorry if, in a community such as ours (and we believe Halifaxians rightly appreciate the noble English game,) cricket should be allowed to stagnate for want of a few precautions, the timely adoption of which would ensure its development. We shall be glad to hear from those who may feel disposed to favour our suggestions, and we shall esteem it a favor on the part of our city contemporaries to ventilate the question as, in our opinion (and we trust in theirs,) it should be ventilated. We, last autumn, entertained Canadian statesmen, and we should like, next summer, to entertain Canadian cricketers. We might be beaten, or we might possibly win, but we cannot ask our Canadian friends to test their skill on a ground, the eccentricities of which sets skill at naught, and exposes to imminent peril all who participate in the sport.

#### IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS.

No. 2.

Scene—The Provincial Library. Time, 6 P. M.

Enter P—l. S—y. He rushes to a table and seizes the "debates of 1864."

Now I've got him! These anti-Unionists are always contradicting themselves, their supporters, common sense and the world in general. Aha, not a bad sentence that! (*writes it down and plunges greedily into the debates.*)

Enter former L—r, of the O—n. You here! what is the matter now?

P. S., abstractedly. Nothing, I'm busy.

L. o. O. aside, What now I wonder! why is he so peevish? (*Aloud.*) has anything ruffled the even temper of my friend, or

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is he really too busy to bestow a few kind words on his successful fellow worker? I'm always cheery you know. All good Unionists are you know, brighten up—let us have a little chat.

P. S.—Another lie nailed—that's all. How fearfully and wonderfully our politicians do change their opinions!

L. o. O.—*Aside and with doubt.* Have I done anything stupid I wonder. (*Aloud*)—Who is it—Mr. Amund, or the clever youngsters from Antigonish?

P. S.—*Decisively.* Both. They are the worry of one's existence, and it's partly your fault.

L. o. O.—*Soothingly.* Mine! my dear friend, mine! How so?

P. S.—To use a vulgar phrase, you are always putting your foot in it in print. I suppose, as there isn't much to talk about in the Upper House, and the public meeting game is pretty well played out, you must have your word somehow. But really those letters to young men are a little *too* absurd. You should stop writing them.

L. o. O.—*Bridling up.* This, sir, is not the first time my conduct has been so unwarrantably interfered with by you. I beg that it may be the last.

P. S.—*Seeing his advantage, &c., with a mercy natural to all great men.* There, there, never mind, I did not wish to cause you any pain. I know, when I ask a favor you will be only too ready to grant it. Don't write any more letters to young men—there's a good fellow. You can't tell the harm they do.

L. o. O.—*Rather more angry than before.*—What do you mean sir? I suppose you didn't like the first two or three which vindicated my character, and that of the old liberal party. That was it I suppose, ha! ha! (*rabbing his hands together savagely, as though the P. S. was between them*) I see it all now,—the duplicity the—

P. S.—*Groaning rather white with anger, but keeping his temper outwardly.*—Since many of your young men were unparaded at the times to which you allude, pleas for political escapades indulged in so long ago, must be to many of your audience incomprehensible gibberish—do you see what I mean?

L. o. O.—Not at all, what does "unparaded" mean?

P. S.—"Unbreached" if you like it better—but—

L. o. O.—We must get out of all little Americanisms now.

P. S.—Preparatory to going to London, yes indeed, ha! ha! (*pleasantly*) Let us talk calmly now my dear sir, remember that when we go to England, if we wish to be made much of, we must behave ourselves, and then you will find Nova Scotian statesmen—thanks, as you say, to Federation—will be treated with that respect which they deserve. Let us approach the question calmly.

L. o. O., *Mollified.*—But why object to my writing letters?

P. S.—Well, do you know nearly everybody one meets says that the greater part of them are sheer hosh.—excuse the term, I only repeat what I hear. The *Unionist* is, I regret to say, but a poorly conducted sheet. It is really rather too scurrilous. It made a great mistake in abusing the poor old *Star* so. So at least I think.

L. o. O.—*Drily.* Do you. But how cleverly the *Chronicle* showed up your old retrenchment business. Fancy reducing, as you did, the expenditure for defence from \$20,000 to \$8,000, when the British troops were pouring through the city. How wonderfully old crimes bear witness, sooner or later, against the criminal. Well, let's approach the question quietly. What think you about the New Brunswick elections?

P. S.—Never mind, we'll win the day. There is no such great hurry after all. It is not impossible that we may be summoned to London before the question is brought up in Nova Scotia.

L. o. O., *aside,* His last chance.—We should get there, as the

*Unionist* said the other day, quicker than we could to Ottawa.

P. S.—The stupidest thing the *Unionist* ever said. That is just the anti's great argument—the distance between the countries; they will be advising us to unite with the Scilly Islands if we allow such trash to be printed.

L. o. O.—Where are the Scilly Islands,—near Bermuda?

P. S.—No, off the West of Ireland of course. You must rub up your geography before we go to London.

L. o. O.—I must say I look forward to that trip with vast pleasure.

P. S.—So do I.

L. o. O.—I must be off.

P. S.—Good-bye, leave off writing to those young men.

L. o. O.—When we go to London, yes. Oh, the Opera—the *bon ton*—the fine dinners—the clever men—the refined society—the homage, all free of charge!—(*exit performing a pirouette a la Taylor!*)

P. S., *aside.*—Silly fellow!

### Communications, &c.

*It is distinctly to be borne in mind that we do not, by inserting letters convey any opinion favorable to their contents. We open our columns to all, without leaning to any; and thus supply a channel for the publication of opinions 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.*

### PROVINCIAL FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BULLFROG."

SIR,—Some friend unknown has addressed to me an extra No. of the "B. F." of 13th ult., with the Communication of Mr. "Robert W. Starr," specially marked for my notice. I am at a loss to divine whether that friend was some wag who "guessed" that I was the writer of the Communication of "A. B. Granville" which friend "Starr" criticises, or whether he wished to draw me out to give an opinion of the respective merits or demerits of each production.

As I happen to have a leisure half hour, I will gratify his curiosity in either point of view, as far as I can in a brief space. As to "A. B. Granville" I know not who he is by his proper name, and further, I have never seen his communication even in print, having missed the No. of the "B. F." in which it appeared. I will venture, however, my humble opinion that "A. B. G.'s" course would have been characterised with more prudence if he had restrained his indignation as far as the public are concerned, and brought his complaints before the Council of the F. G.'s Association. The reasons for this course are obvious enough. The Association is competent enough, and honest enough I know, to deal fairly with any charge of disingenuousness or over reaching against Amateur Fruit Growers to the prejudice of the real "Farmers" who cultivate Fruit to an extent annually to be counted by hundreds of barrels. Mr. "A. B. G." might have also put himself right in another way if he suspected his reputation as a "Fruit Grower," had suffered by favoritism in connection with the late Exhibition. He might have just quietly pocketed his temporary mortification, and entered the lists at London, as a competitor against the whole Association of "Provincial Fruit Growers," and possibly carried off a Silver Medal and left the "Card Certificates" to his amateur rivals. Such a brilliant success would doubtless have been an effectual curative balm to his wounded pride.

Now, for friend "Starr's" communication. I am reminded by its perusal, of the criticism of a Countryman, (who was defendant in a Suit at Law,) upon the address of his Counsel to the Jury. The client was known in the community to be so keen a blade, that his honesty came to be questioned. The learned Counsel feared that a tincture of this prejudice had found its way into the jury box; and thought it a prudent course in his closing address to the jury, to test his oratorical powers to the utmost limit in the work of eradicating the dangerous element if it existed

there, and was extravagantly loud in his praises of the integrity and uprightness of his client. The verdict was against his client, who reproved the learned gentleman by expressing the decided opinion that his address to the jury was "entirely too sentimental."

But the special plea put upon the record by Counsellor Starr as a defence of his client, to the whole declaration of "A. B. G.," the Plaintiff and complainant, is positively amusing. It is in italics, and by the way, not a usual course in practice, for counsel are scarcely over ready to draw the attention of their rival opponents to what they deem the strong points in their case. But here it is, in the ordinary type,—On the trees and in the fruit room, I saw the same kinds of apples, and in as good condition and appearance as I afterwards saw in the collection marked "First Class Silver Medal" in the grounds of the Association at Bridgetown." Why could not Counsellor Starr aver that he saw the "same apples?" To aver and prove, gentleman of the jury, to say that the "same kinds of apples, &c., &c." is no sufficient answer in law or fact to the Plaintiff's declaration. The defendant must go a step further, and aver and prove that he saw the "same apples, &c., &c.," and leave out the story of "kinds, condition, appearance, &c.," as useless surplusage. If the counsel of the defendant refuses to withdraw his plea and permit judgment to be entered for the Plaintiff, I recommend Mr. Attorney A. B. G. to demur to this italicised plea, on the ground that it is a *Negative pregnant* plea. It is, taken with the introductory part not quoted here, in a *negative* form, but implies also an *affirmative*, and therefore a bad plea in law. And I further recommend Counsellor Starr, that unless he can aver and prove "that he saw the same apples, &c.," his most prudent course is to let judgment go for Plaintiff, and send his bill to his client to be "cashed up."

But, sir, a truce to this good natured banter for the present, and let us go in for a little sober advice to each of your correspondents. Let them keep out of print, either with charges or the justification of them, in relation to the Provincial Fruit Growers' Association; its officers or members; or the exhibitors at its annual Exhibitions; and let all grievances or complaints be submitted to the Award of the Council. Let no well wisher of so valuable an institution go to the public with these real or imaginary wrongs, through the press. We want all the public sympathy and support we can command, to cheer us on in our self-sacrificing efforts, to improve the quality of our Provincial fruit productions—to increase its quantity—to bring it into notice in the markets of Europe, and last though not least, to instruct our fellow subjects across the Atlantic, and Frenchmen, Germans, and all the races of Europe that our happy and charming Nova Scotia is not the sterile, rocky, wintry, and inhospitable clime which ignorant and untruthful persons have heretofore represented her to be. But that, on the contrary, her inland counties, a *very* blessed by the God of nature with facilities and capability almost unrivalled for the production of the most valuable varieties of Fruits, Roots, and Cereals. This last, and the previously enumerated objects, constitute the grand and patriotic mission of our Association; and that man who would designedly tarnish its freshly developing fame, or mar or retard its cause of public usefulness, is a *post* and not a *patriot*. I may say in conclusion that I charge no designed wrong against either of your correspondents. I know that my friend Starr means well, and I am persuaded that my unknown friend A. B. G. merits the like praise.

Earnestly hoping that the Legislature will continue to patronize the Association by the bestowal of a liberal grant from the public treasury, and that our beautiful sister County of Hants will be the scene of the largest and most satisfactory Annual Exhibition next Autumn we have yet had, I beg to subscribe myself, sir,

Your very obedient friend,  
T. W. CHESLEY,  
One of the Council P. F. G. A.

Granville, Feb. 20, 1865.

[It is almost needless to remark that our correspondent did not write the letter, signed A. B. Granville. Ed. B. F.]

## Local and other Items.

TO THE RAILWAY COMMITTEE.—We learn from the *Reporter* that, on the morning of Saturday last, the Committee on Railways, and a number of members of the House of Assembly, started for Windsor by special train on a trip of inspection, and expressed themselves pleased with the present condition of the line. We further learn that the said Committee and members dined at the "Clifton" and returned in safety to the city. While congratulating the members of the Railway Committee upon their safe return to Halifax, we must inform them that the "present condition of the line" is rather dangerous than otherwise, and that it is peculiarly fortunate for their reputations that no serious accident has yet occurred. The Railway Committee will do well to ponder seriously upon the following remarks, addressed to us by a gentleman well known in connection with our public works:—"While walking on the railway the other day (for about 1½ miles) near the ten mile house, the dangerous condition of the line struck me most forcibly. Numbers of the wedges which keep the rails in their proper position on the "chairs," (and which alone ensure the rails being of the proper gauge,) are either wanting, or so loose as to be easily pushed out by hand. The wedges, being almost invariably too small, the intervening space has been filled in with brushwood. Again—in places where the rails have sunk, (either from the softness of the soil or from influences of frost,) they have been raised to their proper level, by driving wedges between the "chairs" and the "sleepers"—thereby drawing the bolts which secure the "chairs" to the "sleepers," and loosening the "chairs" themselves." Let the Railway Committee see to this at once. Forewarned is forearmed.

JUDGE JOHNSTON ON CONFEDERATION.—We are at a loss to comprehend the wisdom which prompted the "Union League" to drag before the public, a gentleman, who is fairly entitled to an immunity from the strife of questions purely political. Judge Johnston's political career has been long and useful, and he is fairly entitled to enjoy the comparative repose which attaches to the position of a Judge, in a country such as ours. But upon a question so momentous as that of Federation, we must, however reluctantly, endeavour to forget Judge Johnston's years and past services, and criticise his opinions without any reference to himself. Referring to the language of an English Cabinet Minister, Judge Johnston says:—"It is a source of highest gratification, that after the long period since Lord Durham pronounced the Union of these Colonies, that policy should meet the approval of the Imperial Government." How could an English Cabinet Minister help approving a scheme which the Delegates had the impertinence to attribute to the people without in any way consulting them? Judge Johnston is of opinion that the delegates have "improved on the American model in the distribution of legislative powers, between the general and local governments." This is by no means strange, considering the experience we have learned from the fate of the Southern States, as opposed to constituted authority. The Judge's remarks upon the coalition of the neighbouring States are sensible and just, and must commend themselves to every thinking man. He says:—"That after three quarters of a century, when thirteen States had increased to thirty, three or four millions of people had grown to thirty millions, a powerful section possessing individuality and extensive powers of State Legislation should desire separation, was quite within the operations of human passions and interest; and if it was (*sic*) necessary to meet this desire with cannon balls, then the civil war might be an argument against all Confederations. But a peaceful separation might have taken place, &c., &c." Judge Johnston is more at home when treating of America, than when he attempts to lay down general axioms. Witness the following remark: "Union under one government" will, under Providence, give us an opportunity of rising to a degree of intellectual, and literary attainments, religious, educational, and moral progress, and refinement of taste, and manners, which cannot be reached in small and contracted communities." Judge Johnston may, possibly, be right, as regards America, but he is certainly in error as regards Europe. Venice, Bologna, Genoa, &c., are, politically speaking, very small republics indeed, but in point of refinement, taste, manners, &c., they rank very high—even higher than Canada, or the neighbouring States. Judge Johnston should have confined his remarks to the new world.

THE LAKES.—The lovers of skating have had "quite a good time" during the past week. The proprietor of the Dartmouth Ferry boats, must have gained considerably, by withholding half cents in change for return tickets. Were the "ferry folk" imbued with the faintest spirit of speculation, they might realize a trifle by taking charge of the great coats, shawls, &c., which the skating public would gladly leave in their custody between the trips across our "peerless harbour." But Nova Scotians are not quick to profit by emergencies.

THE UNION PARTY.—Three weeks back, the Union press said "now or never"—"annihilation or federation." The result of the New Brunswick Elections has wrought a most marked change.

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The present Union cry is—"patience, and trust in providence." It is interesting to note the "trimming" process, now being carried out by the "Botheration" organs.

James Coners, for coming to the station, having no place of residence, sentenced to 30 days hard labour." (*Tele.*—Police Report, Saturday, March 4th.)—*Unionist*.

We are aware that in the eyes of Society poverty is one of the gravest of crimes, but this is the first instance brought to our notice of poverty being viewed as a Penal offence, against the laws of any civilized community. The *Unionist* is, doubtless, looking forward to a time when all the poor shall be rooted out of the *mighty Empire*, that is to astonish the world; even at the cost of individual rights. But, seriously, we trust that this poor wretch was not committed to Prison for poverty unaccompanied by any direct breach of the laws.

**NATURAL ENOUGH.**—When James takes Smith by the button hole, and tells him that he (Smith) is without exception, the finest and the handsomest fellow it has ever been his (Jones') lot to meet, the chances are that Smith will, in his turn, say something civil and complimentary. It is, therefore, by no means strange that the *Canadian News* should speak very highly of Mr. Lynch's speech at Temperance Hall. We regret that our published opinions of the oration in question were less laudatory, but—a prophet hath no honor in his own country.

### Extracts.

#### THE NORTH AMERICAN FEDERATION.

If, as Lord DERBY observed, the Speech of the Lords Commissioners was in some respects an appropriate address from an aged Minister to a moribund Parliament, it was not without one paragraph which testified to the youth and vigour of the British Empire. Disintegration is supposed to be the regular mode of dissolution for decrepit monarchies, but the process which is now going on among the most important of the offshoots of Great Britain is one of consolidation, and not of division. The formation of a colonial nation of nearly four millions of inhabitants will, in all probability, signalize the present Session, and make it memorable long after the world has forgotten much busier and more stirring conflicts than this Parliament is likely now to witness. The announcement in the Speech, and the address of Lord MONCK to the Canadian Legislature, seem to assign to the Home Government a larger share in the initiation of this great project than has been supposed to belong to them. It is at any rate certain that the Conference which sat at Quebec was assembled by the express invitation of the Governor-General of Canada, acting, of course, with the fullest sanction of his superiors; and the cordial manner in which the conclusions of the colonial statesmen have been accepted will go far to remove any difficulties which might impede the success of the proposed Federation. It was no part of Lord DERBY's cue to admit the importance of any of the announcements which the Speech of the Lords Commissioners contained, he said enough to make it plain that the Federation of the North American Colonies will not be made a party battle-ground. The chief danger which may await the Bill announced for giving effect to the proposed Union will perhaps arise from the whims and crochets of individual members, but the absolute necessity of a thorough knitting together of the Provinces which border on the Federal States is so obvious at this moment, that even the pleasure of devising ingenious machinery for a new Constitution will scarcely tempt any rational English politician to put obstacles in the way of the Colonial scheme. There has never, since the report of the Conference was published, been much doubt that all the Provincial Legislatures would ratify the work of their leading statesmen; and now that an American fleet may be looked for upon the Lakes, and that American custom-house officers will soon block up all the roads of commercial intercourse, any lingering hesitation as to the expediency of union must be effectually banished from the Colonial mind. The United States cannot be expected to feel much satisfaction at the establishment of a closely united Government in place of the independent authorities who could scarcely have combined with effect for common defence. Something of the same feeling which sometimes elicits from France indignant protests against union among her neighbours is natural enough in the dominions of Mr. LINCOLN. Both countries feel aggrieved, as a matter of course, by any arrangement which threatens to make their neighbours less easily devoured; yet, if the Americans had desired to insure the project against all risk of failure, they could not have done so more effectually than by their notices to terminate the Reciprocity Treaty and the neutrality of the great Lakes. It is not quite true, as has been very generally assumed, that the necessities of military defence were the moving cause of the project of Colonial Federation. For many years past, aspirations more or less definite, in this direction, had been struggling for some sort of realization; and all that the threatening attitude of the United States can be said to have done has been to infuse into the councils of the colonists an earnestness and unanimity for want of which, at another time, the best-devised scheme of union might have proved abortive.

Lord MONCK's speech at the opening of the Provincial Parliament does not fall justice to the most momentous question which the Canadians have ever had to decide for themselves. In measured and dignified language he puts before them the alternatives between which the public men of British North America will have to choose—whether the vast country which they inhabit shall be consolidated into a state combining within its arms all the elements of national greatness, providing for the

security of its component parts, and contributing to the strength and stability of the Empire, or whether the several Provinces shall remain in their fragmentary and isolated condition, comparatively powerless for mutual aid, and incapable of undertaking their proper share of Imperial responsibility. Those who listened to these words could scarcely have failed to think of the possible consequences of the hostile disposition which has been lately manifested by their republican neighbours, though Lord MONCK judiciously avoided any express reference to irritating topics, and conveyed to the people of the United States only the assurance that Canada would not fail in the performance of the duties of a neutral and friendly State. The outrages committed by Confederate partisans are not attempted to be palliated, while the entire freedom of Canada from any responsibility for what has occurred is shown by the readiness with which measures of prevention have been at once devised. Not only have Volunteers been detached to maintain peace on the frontier, and a special police been organized for the detection of refugee plots, but a Bill is about to be introduced into the Legislature for the purpose of arming the Executive with additional powers. In all this there is nothing which does not redound to the credit of the Province, and the Federals will probably find themselves greatly mistaken if they interpret acts done from a sense of international duty as indications of fear or expressions of sympathy. The only proceeding of an ambiguous character has been the ill-judged persecution of a judge who, in strict accordance with the law as he understood it, and probably rightly understood it—pronounced a decision which might have entailed some political inconvenience. Upon the whole the attitude of Canada has been worthy of the aspirations which have prompted her to move in the project of Colonial Federation. The next mail may bring the news that the creation of the new nationality is complete so far as the voices of its constituents can determine it, and that nothing remains but for the British Parliament to give its final sanction to the work at which the statesmen of North America have so wisely and patriotically laboured.

On the eve of a political change of such great importance, it is satisfactory to find the Canadians displaying the same manly spirit which distinguished them before the long period of peace which they have enjoyed under the protection of Great Britain. The recent call upon the Volunteers to occupy the frontier, with the avowed and immediate purpose of checking irregular encroachments upon the territories of a churlish neighbour, would perhaps have been less eagerly responded to if it had not been felt that the same weapon which repressed Confederate raiders would serve, on occasion, to defend the Canadian soil. It would need a vast army of Volunteers to line the long stretch of frontier between the Colony and the United States, and indeed it is not likely that so extended a line of defence would be occupied in the event of hostilities; but enough has been done on the American Continent to show what a determined nation of four millions might do in self-defence. The material for very effective armies lies unused in the plains of Canada, and the alacrity displayed by the few Volunteers who have been called out for permanent service may be accepted as an earnest of the spirit with which the people of British North America would unite, as they have united before, in resistance to aggression. That the occasion to test their martial ardour will never arise from an undue pugnacity on the part of England may, after recent experience, be taken for granted; but it is impossible to be blind to the fact that the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty will reopen many grounds of difference between Canadian and American subjects, and that the existence of two jealous fleets watching each other on the Northern Lakes will add to the already sufficient risk of some outrage against this country or her colonies which may call for instant defence. The animosity which has evidently prompted the proceedings of Mr. LINCOLN's Government will not facilitate the adjustment of any difficulties that may arise, or diminish the necessity of vigilance on the Canadian side of the border. It may be that, when the civil war ends, the Americans will subside into meekness and cultivate the amenities of international intercourse, but the opposite effect of a long course of belligerent excitement might be regarded as at least possible even if it were not daily predicted by New York editors and Washington statesmen on the stump. It is well, therefore, to know that Canada is on the alert, and that no long time will elapse before she will form part of a Confederacy which, even without the aid that this country would be prompt to render, will have no mean powers of self-defence.—*London Saturday Review*.

#### THE VAMPIRE.

Many changes have taken place in education as well as in other departments—perhaps I should say more particularly in education—since it was my lot to be usher in N— Grammar School: a position that the reader may not be disposed to question, when I state that some twenty years have elapsed since the time I allude to.

I visited N— last summer, and of course renewed at once my acquaintance with the old Grammar School. There it was, as well as I remembered it of old, rearing its weather-beaten front in the High Street; and as I sat in the coffee-room of the White Hart immediately opposite, its external features seemed to recall to me the various events that had taken place during my sojourn there. There was the old gateway and the massive oaken door, through which the boys trooped daily at the summons of the shrill but not unmelodious bell above. Hark, it is going now! After all these years, what a thrill of memory that once so familiar sound awakens within me! That heavy mullioned window to the right is, or was, the doctor's study, and the black patch in the centre of the window, when viewed from within, resolves itself into the armoial bearings of the founder of the Grammar School—a shield argent charged with a cross vert, the crest an eagle preying, and for a motto "En plein jour." For the life of me I cannot recall the founder's

name—memory is a treacherous jade; but if you feel any curiosity on the subject, I have no doubt that by forwarding the above particulars to the College of Heralds, you may satisfy it. There were few of the boys who had not cause to remember the device in question, though I doubt if many could have described it in heraldic language, for the study was the scene of the doctor's private birchings, public "executions" being reserved for greater offences. The large window to the left belongs to the schoolroom, and through a corresponding one at the opposite end I catch a glimpse of the playground, and of the tall fir-trees peopled by a flourishing colony of rocks, the climbing of which was interdicted under severe penalties. Well do I remember them! They recall a moonlight summer's night, and a young boy rising from his bed, noiselessly slipping on his trousers and socks, and as noiselessly creeping down the oak staircase, and emerging, through a window I believe, into the play ground. I see him now crossing the lawn and commencing his perilous ascent up the very highest of the forbidden trees. Now he is hidden in the deep shade; now he comes out again into the moonlight, and each time higher and higher his white figure shows against the dark foliage, till he seems to be poised on the very summit, and then grasping something in his right hand, he slowly and cautiously descends.

I don't know to this day if I did right, but masters are human, after all, and liable to err. I kept the boy's secret; he never knew that any eye but those of his dormitory companions saw him. He won his wager and the applause of his fellows, but he paid the penalty. Some small footprints beneath the sacred trees, a very soiled pair of socks, and a night-shirt decidedly more "green" than such habiliments are wont to be, told a tale of cause and effect only too plain. The boy was birched, and laid up with a violent cold as well.

Poor Tom Burke! I don't know whether he showed most bravery in his midnight expedition or in the fortitude with which he bore its consequences. We augured a bright future for him in his chosen calling, but Providence ordained otherwise. Tom was one of the earliest victims of the Indian mutiny. Peace to his memory!

The low wing connecting the schoolroom with the chapel has, too, its reminiscences. The upper story is a low pitched room, called the "washing gallery," from being the scene of the boys' ablutions. There is a trap-door in the centre, leading into the rafters, and easily reached by the judicious piling of two or three boxes. We had in my time an idle, eccentric boy, whom I will call Arthur Williams. He always seemed to live in an ideal world of his own, from the regions of which it was impossible to dislodge him, and he was consequently very frequently in trouble. He then concocted a scheme with a boon companion, in whose face mischief reigned supreme, to pay a stolen visit one half-holiday to the "washing gallery," and explore the rafters. They put their plan in operation, lighted a candle, and started on their journey. All went well for a time, till the vicinago of numerous cobwebs warned them of the danger of a lighted candle. The "glim" was "doused," and the next step Arthur took his foot went through the ceiling. Not a whit dismayed by this casualty, or else rendered reckless by it, they visited the clock-tower, set the clock wrong, and altered the weights. These misdemeanors proved so engrossing, that the summons of the four o'clock muster-bell was disregarded, and the whole proceedings were discovered. Wanton destruction of property was a very heinous crime in the doctor's estimation, and Arthur's companion was a *mauvais sujet*, so we were scarcely surprised that the expulsion of both was the consequence. They were not publicly expelled, but their respective parents were requested to remove them. Arthur turned out very well, as I always predicted he would, and is now one of our most popular literary men.

But in these reminiscences I am forgetting the especial subject of this paper. If I found the school little changed, I found plenty of change elsewhere. Now, the Great Western Railway carried me swiftly and comfortably to within a mile or two of N—, and two hours after I left the Paddington station found me ensconced in the coffee-room of the White Hart. Then, it used to be a long journey by coach, and altogether about as disagreeable a journey as I have had occasion to make.

It was in February, 184—, that, having obtained the appoint-

ment through the interest of a friend, I started on my way to N— for the first time. I occupied myself a great deal, as may be imagined, in speculating on my future kind of life, and once or twice I fell asleep. At length the coach drew up in the old market-place, and I alighted.

I was accosted by a boy, a pale-faced boy, with a peculiar expression of countenance that seemed to haunt me with its singularity, "Was I for N— Grammar School?"

I was.

Then the doctor had commissioned him to show me the way. And he went with me accordingly.

My companion was taciturn beyond anything that my experience of boys had hitherto encountered. I asked some questions as to the school. He would answer monosyllabically, and then relapse into silence, apparently regarding his shoe-string with the most intense interest. His reticence did not appear to me to be the result either of shyness or churlishness. Had he not been so young a boy, I should have said his spirit was crushed out of him by the possession of a deadly secret. Altogether his manner puzzled me.

My speculations, however, were cut short by our arrival at the school, and in the occupation of making the doctor's acquaintance and arranging my room. I had little time to think of my recent companion. At supper I noticed him among the other boys, but as soon as he caught my eye, he turned his head away abruptly. A mysterious boy.

After supper and prayers, the doctor called me aside.

"Mr. Merton," he said, "the dormitory attached to your room is under your supervision. Be so good as keep a sharp look-out on it. There is something wrong," he added, in a lower voice, "about that dormitory, and I should be only too glad if your vigilance could discover it. It is a most mysterious circumstance. The ventilation appears to me to be most efficient; in fact, I am assured it is by competent authorities, and yet if I put the most healthy boy there, in three or four days he becomes pale and haggard. It's a very extraordinary thing, and most annoying. Saunderson," he added, pointing to the mysterious boy, who was looking into the fire with the strange, abstracted look I had noticed before, "is the prefect of your dormitory, and will initiate you into any of our customs. Good-night."

In a quarter of an hour all the boys were safely in bed, and the lights out. I should have mentioned that my bed-room commanded a view of the dormitory by means of a window which I could open or shut at pleasure. The doctor's parting words had connected themselves in my mind with the mysterious boy. I felt disinclined for sleep, so shading my lamp, I stationed myself at the window, and took up a book. I heard the clock strike eleven—twelve—one. By a restless impulse which I could not account for, I felt constrained to go round the dormitory, at the risk of disturbing its occupants. All was quiet. The twenty-five boys were all slumbering peacefully on, and as I looked at each one in turn, I bore witness to the truth of the doctor's assertion as to the pallor and haggardness of the inmates of our dormitory. They might have been scholars of Dotheboy's Hall.

Nearest my window slept Saunderson. The odd expression that had attracted my notice seemed to have given place in sleep to an expression of peaceful innocence more befitting his years, and as he lay with one arm thrown over the quilt, I thought him even nice-looking.

I had not been in my room five minutes before I was attracted by a sound from the dormitory, and looking through the window, I saw Saunderson rise from his bed and approach that of his nearest neighbour. He leant over him, and—oh, heaven!—the sight seemed to paralyse me!

(To be Concluded.)

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