

# THE BULLFROG.

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## THE EDUCATION ACT. Q

It were the merest folly to deny that the Education Act, passed last session, is eminently unpopular throughout the Province. We cannot take up a country paper without seeing an article directed against the measure, and we have already opened our columns to the expression of sentiments hostile to the workings of the Act as at present constituted. Yet the Act has been carefully drawn up, and is, taking it all in all, rather a good Act than otherwise. The difficulties which environ all educational questions have been for the most part successfully combated, and the faults of the Act lie, not in its provisions, but in the mode of carrying them out. We have no fault to find with the Constitution of the Council of Public Instruction, nor the method resolved upon for appointing the district revision Commission;—indeed, the head quarter arrangements of the Act seem unexceptionable, and calculated to promote education upon a sound and liberal basis. Yet the Act is eminently unpopular, for reasons which we shall endeavour to point out. In the first place, the wording of the Act is by no means clear. Let us take, for example, the following paragraphs, as relating to the first appointment of Trustees:—

23. The annual school meeting for the appointment of trustees and other school business, shall be held in the school house of the section, or if none, in any other convenient building, on the last Tuesday in October. The first meeting succeeding the passing of this Chapter, shall be convened by the Clerk of the Commissioners, and all succeeding meetings by the trustees, or where none exist, by the Clerk, by notices posted in three of the most public places, at least three days previously, signed by the Clerk, or trustees, as the case may be.

24. At the first annual meeting under this Chapter, three trustees shall be appointed in each section, and at each annual meeting thereafter, one of the trustees first elected shall go out of office by ballot and another shall be elected in his room; provided always that he may be re-elected with his own consent. Any person appointed a trustee, and refusing to act, shall forfeit the sum of ten dollars.

25. At every annual meeting the majority of the freeholders and householders present shall elect one of their number to preside over the meeting, and shall appoint a Secretary to record its proceedings; and the chairman shall decide all questions of order, and shall take the votes of rate payers only, and shall give a casting vote in case of an equality of votes. Rate-payers in this Chapter shall mean the persons whose names are included in the last county rate roll for the district, rated in respect of real or personal property, but shall not include persons rated only for poll tax.

From the foregoing clauses, we presume that the trustees are, or have been elected, by the votes of all such persons as pay any rates—however small—and here at once we have a clue to the dissatisfaction so universally expressed. The appointment of Trustees is almost, if not entirely based upon a system of universal suffrage; whereas Education is one of those points whereon the opinion of the educated classes should, as a mere matter of common sense, outweigh the opinion of the masses. An educational system cannot be successfully carried out by the people, inasmuch as its one aim and object is to elevate the people to a standard hitherto

beyond their reach. If we wish to raise the intelligence of the masses, we must place before them an intelligence superior to their own;—in a word, we must set on high the advantages of education if we would have such advantages duly recognised. When a Government undertakes to legislate for the education of the people, it assumes a task purely paternal. It should not seek to coerce, neither can it hope to dictate;—it must fall back upon the combination of experience and common sense. And the combined influence of these two inestimable qualifications is not ordinarily underrated. When a man draws up a will, he thinks twice ere resolving upon his executors. When a man finds himself on the brink of the grave, he is not a little anxious regarding those whom he may elect as trustees of his children's fortunes. No man would, in such a case, desire his children's interests to be confided to any one whom a jarring crowd of hungry relatives might think proper to elect by ballot. And we cannot see why a Government should be indifferent as to the moral character and social position of trustees appointed to carry out its own schemes regarding education. The duties assigned to school trustees under the Education Act, are open to the gravest abuse, and it is of the utmost importance that such trustees should be nominated with reference to individual character and local influence. But local influence may in some cases render a man obnoxious to the majority of rate payers, and the latter may elect a trustee totally unfitted for the duties assigned him. We are of opinion that in each school district a limited number of gentlemen should be held eligible for trusteeship, with reference to a high property qualification, real or personal. Were such the case, we have little doubt that all parties would be materially benefited.

But popular indignation has not been called forth with reference to the election of trustees, but rather as regards the provisions of the Act concerning school support. And here we are of opinion that the Education Act needs revision. To expect that any body of men with a spark of self-respect will tamely submit to be taxed in the manner laid down in the following paragraph, is to expect what is altogether unreasonable:—

26. The annual meeting shall receive the report of the trustees as to the state of the school, and the funds required for its support in the ensuing year; and the majority shall decide as to the manner in which such support shall be raised—whether by subscription or assessment; and in case it is decided to raise the required funds by subscription, and the sum subscribed for the support of the school fails to be realized, the balance shall be raised by assessment in manner as hereinafter mentioned, the amount previously paid being taken into consideration; and if a majority present agree to raise money for the support of one or more schools by assessment; or for the purchase of lands whereon to erect school-houses; or for the building or repairing them,—they shall then appoint three assessors who shall forthwith assess the amount upon the inhabitants of each section by an equal rate upon such section to be imposed according to the assessment roll for the year to be furnished by the Clerk of the Peace for the County or district in which such school section shall be situate, and shall be collected by a collector, to be also appointed at such meeting, under a warrant to be signed

by the assessors; and in default of payment to be collected under and subject to the provisions of the Chapter of the revised statutes "Of County assessments," and of any acts in amendment thereof, and such assessors shall return such assessment to the general sessions or to any special sessions held for that purpose, when appeals shall be had and determined. And when, in accordance with the instructions and regulations of the Council of Public Instruction, the school-house or houses in any district shall be declared unfit for use by the School Commissioners, the trustees shall be authorized to raise the sum required for the building by assessment on the real and personal property of the inhabitants of the district.

Here, we have a tax levied by a *show of hands*, upon men possessing real or personal property! We have at different times heard a good deal about rich men making laws for the poor, but here we find poor men called upon to tax the rich. Let us suppose that the report of the trustees represents the school funds in need of but trifling assistance—say twenty pounds; can there be any doubt as to the decision of the majority regarding the best means of raising such a sum? Unless we greatly miscalculate human instincts, a majority would declare in favor of subscription. Men do not, as a rule, tax themselves more than they can help, nor do they tax themselves at all, so long as others are willing to be taxed for them. Who would vote for assessment, when money could be raised by subscription? But, supposing the subscription scheme falls to the ground, into whose hands does the power of taxation fall? Into the hands of a majority of rate payers, as represented by three assessors chosen from their midst! The working of such a system is obvious. A gentleman employs—say, twenty men, and the latter are enabled to become rate payers by reason of their employer's liberality. A general meeting is duly advertised, the report of the trustees is handed in, and a small sum is required for school support. Three assessors are elected by a majority of those employed as above stated, and the collector is sent round the section, cap in hand. If he be a wise man, he will visit one or more wealthy employers, and thus save himself the trouble of calling upon those for whose direct interest the tax is levied. The wealthy employers have probably no personal interest in the school which they are called upon to maintain; the benefits of the district school are shared by the men in their employ, but the latter are not necessarily called upon to support such a school.

We think the Council of Instruction would do well to reconsider paragraph 26, of the Education Act, prior to the 1st of next May. It would be most unwise to try and carry out a law obnoxious to the majority of the people, when by a little trouble on the part of the Council, the Education Act could be materially improved. As at present constituted, it is to be feared that those in whose hands power will be placed, may not be exactly the men best fitted for the important task of taxing their fellow men. It would seem, indeed, as though the Council had calculated upon such a contingency, when framing the following paragraph:—"If any trustee shall sign a false return tending to procure for the section an undue share of the public aid, he shall forfeit the sum of twenty dollars." The forfeiture is hardly in keeping with the crime, supposing the trustees men of any social status. We are of opinion that the high-handed views put forth as an advertisement in every paper but this, will go far to alienate the people from the existing Administration.

#### CANADA AND FEDERATION.

That the existing scheme for the Federation of British North America is doomed to destruction few we imagine will deny. New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have

already declared most strongly against it. The possibility however that Nova Scotia alone may in after ages be accused of having accepted it is greatly to be feared. If things are allowed to go on as at present, our province will deserve the stigma attaching to a people who allow themselves to be wheedled by their politicians into a scheme which they at heart abhor. This censure will be deserved if all discussion on the subject is confined to the press. The two leading political journals are naturally in favor of a scheme agreed to by their directors. Many other journals—facetiously, and we will hope incorrectly,—termed by the great daily organ "subsidized tri-weeklys" follow in hot haste upon their steps, whilst others again are hesitatingly dumb upon the subject. Nova Scotians however must not be drowned by a gush of honeyed words. That the scheme is impossible we have already observed, and the only object we now have in view is to save Nova Scotians from the imputation of having given their assent, through their politicians, to a scheme, which the mass rejects as absurd.

Perhaps the most charming feature in the arrangement is its Janus like character. It resembles Mr. FACTSBOURNE'S WAYS. It is denounced as *too* Legislative in Lower Canada, which province we shall be told alone stood in the way of a Legislative Union, and it is cried down as *too* Federal in Nova Scotia which professes to desire a Legislative Union, if any at all is to be obtained. The extreme possibility of the Scheme acts however in another way. Its two faces provide answers to objections of all kinds. The politicians who constructed it cannot be accused by those desirous of Federation, of propounding a purely Legislative Scheme; nor can the well wishers of a Legislative Union declaim against the result of the conference as *too* Federal in its design. Those who cry out for a Legislative Union are told that such an Union is before them, and vice versa, those who consider Federation the safest course are referred to the powers vested in the Local Parliaments as a proof that it is really a Federation of the Provinces which is in contemplation. We shall be told in fact that it is a compromise, and that all great improvements have been compromises. Without denying the general statement we must remark that there are situations in which compromise is impossible. To talk of a compromise between an evenly matched lion and tiger is absurd; nor would matters be much mended by the introduction of a muskwash into the arena. It is no compromise for the muskwash. He may divert the wild beasts' attention for five seconds and be snapped up at once, or he may have to wait till the battle royal is over and be then quietly devoured by the victor. The politicians of Upper and Lower Canada having brought things to a deadlock by their quarrels see a chance of breathing time if they can persuade the Lower provinces to join a scheme of their own concoction. The politicians of the latter fall into the snare and preach claptrap about a great nation only bounded by the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, whilst the very cause for establishing this great nation is the inability of the two Canadas to remain united. And then we are told that it is a compromise—which indeed it may be between the politicians of Upper and Lower Canada—and the best scheme which could be effected. That indeed is quite possible. Considering the causes which led to its birth we are only astonished that it is not worse. Nova Scotia desires no compromise. Nova Scotia could make up her mind as to the kind of union which would best suit her interests. The people of this Province could make up their minds fast enough on the subject, but they are not willing to enter a union which is caused by disunion. Their faith in such a scheme is naturally weak. When we look at the arguments which are daily poured forth in favor of

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the proposed scheme we are somewhat astonished at the fact that there is nothing new in them. No argument is urged which was not brought forward in the autumn at the big dinner in the drill shed or the Chowder party at Bedford Basin. Union is a good thing—Intercolonial Railway—Uniformity of Tariff—and self defence—are still the cries of those who support the scheme of the politicians. Nobody for a moment denies the correctness of these truisms. A horse is a noble and useful beast, but granting that, does not prove him an agreeable companion in a drawing room. Union may be a good thing in its proper place but British North America is not at present prepared for it. Union—Railway—Tariff—and all the rest of the advantages before alluded to would be real advantages, were they not counter-balanced by a more than corresponding amount of disadvantages. The advocates of Union, we say, urge no new arguments in its favor. Their success in combating what is urged against the proposed Scheme is still more doubtful.

If it be urged that the system of Federation is distasteful they have a ready answer "The Provincial Parliaments have no power." If it be further urged why in the name of common sense, having no power, they should exist at all, an answer like the following will be given. "Well you see the whole thing is a compromise, Local Parliaments will probably soon die a natural death." This we deny. They will become, as a contemporary wisely remarks, hotbeds of Provincial agitation and tend to keep up Provincial jealousies and rancours to the great prejudice of any true union.

Now though the existing Scheme must, as we say, fail, we are averse to the idea that the labour of the delegates has been fruitless. Though we are not prepared to accept the Union presented to us in its entirety, the Quebec convention has pointed out many quieter paths by which we may eventually arrive at a permanent Union between the Upper and Lower provinces. It has made us feel what we want by the very fact of rendering the accomplishment of such craving possible. There are two things which Nova Scotia does desire and which we hope the failure of the present plan will not prevent being soon granted us. These are the Railway and Free trade between the Colonies. It will indeed be a great pity if all the labor of our delegates is utterly thrown away. They must have discussed the Tariff question at great length. The representatives of Canada and the other provinces would hardly have consented to establish free-trade between the Colonies unless they were aware that in the end it must be beneficial. Indeed the railway once built free trade will become a necessity. An arrangement of this kind has been found practicable between several sovereign states in Germany, and has been attended by the most satisfactory results. The many principalities which compose the Zollverein confederation enjoy all the advantages of a commercial union with none of the disadvantages attached to Federation on the American principal. Since the political state of the two Canadas renders a real Union impossible and Federation is distasteful to the Lower Provinces, we can see no reason why, though the proposed scheme must be rejected, the few parts of it which are practicable cannot be reserved for future use. We could surely effect such a mild scheme without the necessity of becoming a plaister for the political sores of Canada. It would in fact be a step, and a safe one, towards a more complete Union hereafter. Let our delegates try back next summer. Even those most opposed to the present scheme would gladly spare our politicians for another Autumn, if the province desire free trade, and if by such means it could be secured.

## ROCKHEAD PRISON.

The important subject of prison discipline has of late years attracted considerable attention throughout Europe and America. Ten or fifteen years ago, a cry went forth that prisoners were treated a shade worse than dogs, and public opinion carried the day in favor of those who had incurred the penalty attached to public wrong doing. For a time prisoners were pampered over-much, and imprisonment was robbed of half its terrors. Then came the customary reaction. Prisoners had been made too comfortable, and public opinion, recanting some of its previous dogmas, decreed that prison life was never intended to be an easy life. The convicts in the Melbourne hulks suffered from plethora,—the result of over-feeding and light work,—while British soldiers were rotting away before Sebastopol for want of proper nutriment! This fact was made the most of by patriotic philanthropists, and prison discipline underwent yet another change. Prisoners were no longer pampered, neither were they driven mad by the enforcement of cruel laws. There had been an error in their former treatment on the side of harshness; there had been an error in their later treatment on the side of leniency; and the present treatment of prisoners is the result of a compromise between two extreme fluctuations of public opinion. Prisoners are no longer of necessity hardened by incarceration, neither do they, while imprisoned, lead an easy life. They are now subject to the manifold annoyances consequent upon loss of freedom and enforced physical labor, but they are not subjected to the debasing influences formerly inseparable from prison life. Should they wish to reform their lives, their desires are strengthened and fostered by advice and tuition: should they remain obdurate in their vicious propensities, care is taken lest they should (by conversation or otherwise) contaminate others already, it may be, partially reclaimed. The wisdom of such an arrangement few will undertake to deny. Let us see how far this arrangement is carried out at Rockhead.

It is not long since we called public attention to the condition of the Pauper Asylum, as a disgrace to our community. The condition of Rockhead Prison is almost equally disgraceful; and, at the risk of being thought tedious, we would again implore our local authorities to give up some of their time to local institutions, before they launch forth into speculations regarding the splendid future of British North America. Our future, as a comparatively insignificant portion of some fabulous empire, is a grand subject; but ought we, in order to cherish a day dream, neglect our immediate concerns for the time being? Speculation, as to what Halifax may be hereafter, is an excellent thing in its way, but surely it is not beneath us to notice Halifax as it is at present. It is one thing to talk of Halifax as "the wharf of British America,"—it is another thing to note Halifax with regard to its present shortcomings. "Charity begins at home," is a trite saying, but its moral is sound, and worthy our consideration. If we wish to be part and parcel of a great nation, let us seek to develop the elements of greatness within ourselves. If our public institutions, under our existing form of government, are a disgrace to us, let us try, by remodelling such institutions, to prove ourselves worthy of alliance with colonists more painstaking. We must, as a people, be judged by our public institutions rather than by our private worth; and if we cannot properly manage a prison or a work-house, our voice will be worth but little at the Ottawa Council Board. We have already shewn our utter inability to deal with Paupers,—we shall now endeavor to show our utter inability to deal with Prisoners. This is strong language, but we must take our public institutions as we find them, and for the time being dismiss from our minds our greatness, present or prospective.

The grand evil in connection with Rockhead Prison, lies in the fact, that the employment of the prisoners is intended to defray as much as possible the expenses of the prison itself. It is customary in Europe and America to pay prisoners a trifling sum

for work performed during the last few months of their incarceration, in order that such prisoners as are disposed to lead a new life, may, on leaving jail, support themselves until they can commence life afresh. The soundness of this principle will commend itself even to those whose war cry is Retrenchment. But it is a principle which has not as yet found favor with those intrusted with the management of Rockhead. A female, abhorrent it may be, of the evil courses which brought her to the felon's dock, leaves Rockhead Prison without a cent in her pocket, and with scarce a rag on her back. She is met by some of those female monsters ever on the look out for human capital wherewith to traffic in their hideous trade. Warm clothes, comfortable shelter, wholesome food, and alcohol, are temptingly put before the shivering and famished jail-bird. On one side she sees hunger, nakedness, and a virtuous life,—on the other, comparative luxury and deadly sin. She would fain resist the temptation, but she is hungry, penniless, and in rags. She succumbs at length, and the last state of such a woman is worse than the first! We have supposed a woman to leave Rockhead in a repentant frame of mind, but her repentance has not been brought about by the exertions of those intrusted with the interior economy of the jail. On the contrary, it is ten chances to one she leaves Rockhead more depraved than when she entered it. It could, indeed, hardly be otherwise, when we come to consider the details of prison life for females. The hour for rising is 6.15; then comes breakfast, and work indoors until dinner; then comes more indoor work; supper is served at 5.15, and at 5.30, the prisoners are locked up in cells from which light is almost totally excluded. No air, no exercise, and almost the whole of each day passed in an ill ventilated work-room,—such is the life of our female prisoners. They have scarce a chance of repentance afforded them. A young girl, convicted it may be of a first offence, is thrown, day after day, and week after week, upon the society of the most hardened offenders, denied out-door exercise, and afforded no opportunity of religious instruction;—is it strange if she leaves Rockhead utterly contaminated and depraved. The condition of the male prisoners is somewhat better. They have at least the advantage of out-door employment, but in the winter months suffer much from cold, no extra underclothing being provided for their use. Their costume consists of a shirt, trousers, and jacket, and the first article is changed regularly—once a week. We think we have said enough to shew that energetic reform is needed in our prison no less than in our work-house. No blame can in any way be attached to the officer in charge of Rockhead; he does his duty humanely towards the prisoners, and courteously towards the public. But the prison is sadly mismanaged, and we trust the public will interfere. It is positively shocking to think that a girl, almost a child, should be allowed to mix daily and hourly with the most hardened and profligate of her sex. It is a crying disgrace to ourselves, that in a city such as Halifax—a city boasting its club house, and its handsome private stores,—should exist no public Reformatory for juvenile female offenders. Efforts of a private nature have been made by some charitable ladies with tolerable success; and the Ladies Committee have, by visiting Rockhead, already done some good. These ladies will have their reward. But what we want, is a public Reformatory. It is not a question of expense, but a question of duty. A Reformatory for boys has been partially established, and although still in its infancy, is a most useful institution, and the thanks of the public are due to our late mayor for his exertions in the matter. Our present mayor, Mr. RITCHIE, also seems disposed to exert himself earnestly in so good a cause. But much yet remains to be done, and the question is too important for half measures. We cannot conclude this article without calling attention to the niggard manner in which the prison is conducted. The staff of jailors is small, and their salaries wretchedly small, in proportion to the work required at their hands. The number of prisoners varies from 30 to 35 among

the men, and from 20 to 25 among the women. The staff of the jail consists of a governor and a matron, whose combined salary is only £175 a year; a female jailor, salary, £12 a year; two male jailors, at £45 each; one warden at £80, and a messenger (husband of the female jailor), at £35. We confess the salary of the female jailor appears to us mean indeed. She has to sit all day, and every day, with the female prisoners in their work-room, for a pittance of barely more than thirteen cents a day. Poor woman! she deserves more than this for the companionship inseparable from her office. In common charity we would suggest an extra female jailor, or double salary for her who now fills a situation so thankless.

#### ✕ RAILWAYS AND THE OPPOSITION.

The little wrangle which has recently taken place in the columns of the *Chronicle*, between that journal and a Mr. LIVESEY should be not only amusing but instructive. It opens up vistas of *jobbing*, not indeed on Mr. Livesey's part, but in our whole system of railway policy which we must confess has never "been dream't of in our philosophy."

It shows clearly, that, whilst governments may use unfair means in the furtherance of their own immediate ends, oppositions are equally liable to temptation, though their real object may not at first be discernible to the multitude. Few we imagine will deny the possibility of a good offer being made to a bad government. Whether it suits the government to accept the offer or not is quite another question. It may prove more beneficial to the bad government to hide its good opportunities. It may suit them to cast a good proposal aside labelled "useful to the province—useless to us." Such documents however may probably re-appear when on a change of ministry they are triumphantly brought forth to show what the late government could have done had not a base coalition, &c. &c. effected its overthrow. Be this as it may, it is as undeniable as is the theory of permutations and combinations, that a bad government may once in a way get hold of a good plan, and what is still more extraordinary, urge its acceptance on the Legislature. A fortunate concatenation of circumstances has led to a good offer being made to Dr. Tupper and his colleagues. It has been accepted, or there is great fear, to judge by the *Chronicle*, that it will be accepted. The idea that the present Government has at last got a chance of benefiting the Province naturally galls an opposition whose only thought is for the welfare of Nova Scotia. To judge by the reasoning of the opposition organ it is not the proposed railway plan that is bad. Not a word can be said against the scheme, so in default of this, and because there is a fear of Dr. TUPPER doing some good, Mr. LIVESEY is condemned as little better than a knave or a fool. We have got into a bad habit in Nova Scotia of judging arguments by those who uphold them, and considering the value of schemes merely in relation to the personality of their proposers. Let us consider what this scheme of Mr. LIVESEY's, or rather the plan which is urged by Mr. LIVESEY, is like.

If we are correctly informed it is as follows:—The Londonderry iron mines lie somewhere between Truro and Moncton, or some other point on the Shediac and St. John Railway. By a fortunate accident the most direct line which could be made between Truro and this other point, happens to pass through this very district, and also, which is still more important, within a few miles of the Spring Hill coal seam. A certain London firm aware of the future value of this county, so wealthy in minerals, conceives the idea of connecting it by rail with the great centres of British North American commerce. The Intercolonial Railway being in consideration and this district, which will eventually be so rich, lying in the way of a direct railway, is it astonishing that they should

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desire to obtain a certain subsidy—for it is nothing more— from Nova Scotia until the coal and iron mines on their railway are worked so as to be of themselves a sufficient support for the line? Let us see how the account would stand for the Province. The London contractors would receive £22,400 a year for twenty years, interest at six per cent for a sum of only £373,333 whilst the cost of the whole work would approximate to a round million. The impetus given to the working of the coal mines of Spring Hill it has been computed would soon cause an annual amount of 500,000 tons to be raised from the mines. A royalty of sixpence a ton would give an annual income to the Government of £12,400, leaving as the cost of the railway an annual charge of £10,000 after a few years have elapsed. Such we believe is the scheme of the International Contract Company, and what does the *Chronicle* urge against it? That its very cheapness is a proof of the rascality which suggested it. The great leading journal appears utterly to ignore the possibility of the contractors in London entering on any scheme purely as a speculation, and without a view to robbing Nova Scotia. It appears, we say, to ignore this possibility, whilst it knows at heart that if there is anything in Mr. Livesey's scheme it will be most beneficial to the Province. Hence we fancy its wrath and lack of argument. To argue against a project which the present opposition may some day, by a series of lucky chances, be enabled to carry out, would be bad policy indeed. To put forward a silly argument about its cheapness cannot possibly do any harm—pressed as it is more apparently against the agent than the scheme itself. This argument and a little vulgar *badinage* with Mr. Livesey, utterly beneath the dignity of our leading journal, is all that has hitherto been urged against the proposed railway.

It is just possible that we may be wrong—Mr. Livesey may be a charlatan. After all nobody has reported upon the proposed line but the company which proposes its construction at so marvellously cheap a rate. If the whole lot are rogues and both Mr. Livesey and the firm for which he acts are swindlers, and their proposed route a fable, the reputation of the Provincial Secretary for sagacity will fall low indeed. If such be indeed the case, we can hardly think that the *Chronicle* has acted wisely. Our contemporary should have waited until Dr. Tupper was fairly committed to a folly, and then benefitted the country, and its own party, by his forcible ejection from office. This we think would have been a wiser course than pouring abuse upon a gentleman against whose proposals they have hitherto had nothing sensible to urge.

#### REMARKS UPON THE PROPOSED FEDERATION OF THE PROVINCES BY A NOVA SCOTIAN.

We are to blame for not sooner noticing this modestly written pamphlet. The author's views are in some respects similar to those which have been advocated in the columns of the *Bulfrog*, and we believe he conscientiously reflects the opinion of the majority of Nova Scotians in the following sensible remarks:—

"It remains to be shown that the increase of our population, will be more rapid, as a result of the Federation, or that our ideas will be expanded by exchanging our present independent position for that of an outlying section of this proposed grand Empire, in the management of whose affairs we shall have very little to say. \* \* \* This is a British Province,—and to be born in a British Province is, in our opinion, the next best thing in the world to being born in the old Country. It is devoutly to be hoped that we may continue in this position towards the parent state, and as long as this is the case, our nationality is the nationality of Great Britain, the Sovereign of the United Kingdom is our Sovereign, the honor of the British flag is our honor. \* \* \* We have no status whatever among the nations of the world, except the status of British subjects, and it will be difficult, whatever the *ulterior views* of Canadian politicians may be, to persuade the people of Nova Scotia to accept of any other."

Such sentiments, coming from the pen of a Nova Scotian, contrast favorably with the clap-trap put forth by those having a direct personal interest in the proposed Federation. In the following passages, we see our own published sentiments reproduced, but we do not on this account deny to the author of the pamphlet before us the merit of originality:

"The Federal Government is to appoint our Governor. The Official coming here from England is often a man of rank, selected for the position, a stranger to local parties, and removed from the suspicion of a leaning towards any political section. \* \* \* To him we bow our heads and give deference, wishing to show, through him, our respect for the person and authority of the Sovereign. How different would be the feelings with which we would regard a man appointed to the post from one of the Provinces, and fresh from the struggles of party strife."

The feelings with which we would regard any such governor may be readily imagined. His levies would only be attended by the sycophants of his own political party; strangers would ignore him; the boys in the street would jeer at him. Suppose the Ottawa Government thought proper to select a Governor from the ranks of those whose misdeeds the *Chronicle* and *Colonist* have rendered familiar to the public's household words. Would any one thus selected be entitled to our respect? Assuredly not, unless the public rates our public men at a standard very different to that wherewith they rate themselves. The idea is simply absurd. Who would pay Court to such men? Who would even salute them as they passed by, or acknowledge them in any way whatever?

#### Communications, &c.

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

*W. C.—Your effusion is far too laudatory. It is quite unsuited to our columns.*

#### THE EDUCATION ACT.

We, Nova Scotians, at our various demonstrations in public and in private, have flattered ourselves that we live under the freest and least tyrannical government in the world. We vainly supposed, that laws made for our guidance, were only intended to shew the general feelings of our people with regard to some particular subject, and to act as gentle monitors to lead us in the path of duty, and further, that these laws were always based upon principles of justice and equity; alike explanatory of their meaning, as well as precise in their text. To such, it has been our boast, that we count it our privilege, as well as pleasure, to submit ourselves. But how stands the case with regard to the now celebrated Education Bill, about which the greater part of the Province is being agitated? Does it contain the elements of right, to commend itself, to the wills, and hearts of the people? Those who have watched the way in which its powers have been already exercised will not readily grant that it does. A law by which power is given in a great measure to the irresponsible—to the mass—a law, which ignores the voice of the minority, though that minority may be the representative of three fourths of the property to be taxed, can scarcely be called just and righteous. But if the law, as a statute, is obnoxious, the efforts made to put it in force—to cram it down the throats of our people, so to speak, whether they will, or won't—is still more unjust and unrighteous. As a specimen of this, we beg the attention of our readers, to the "Educational Notice No. 3" just published by the Council of Public Instruction. It is styled "Educational Notice," but Educational *Bill* would have been far more in accordance with its spirit. It smacks so much of the Vatican, that one can hardly suppose, it could have been drawn up so much nearer home. The Autocrat of all the Schools—J. H. Rand—deigns to inform us in it that "many irregularities have occurred in the proceedings of the annual school meetings in consequence of imperfect knowledge and misunderstanding concerning the requirements of the law;" as if anything else could be expected

of a law so blunderingly drawn up as to require three times its volume of "Comments and explanations" to make it barely intelligible. And even with all these it has failed to convey its meaning "in many sections in several counties." What a "comment" is this upon an Education Act. But "irregularities" or no, the Bill is to be put in operation. Here is the despots power. No matter, whether our school meeting votes a sum of money for the support of an existing academy in Picton, which it had just as much right to do, as to vote a sum to raise a monument to the genius who drew up the Education Bill, no matter; "measures" will be adopted by the government upon the meeting of the Legislature for the purpose of legalizing the proceedings of annual meetings at which technical irregularities have occurred." Those who have to pay the assessment will be very anxious to know the opinion of the council of Education as to what they will view as a "technical irregularity." Perhaps the Secretary will favour us with a "comment and explanation" upon this point. We should be glad to learn what sort of "measures" the government will adopt to secure the passing of such further enactments this winter, so as to make legal all the illegal acts already committed. That Our House has shewn a subserviency to Party, and Political leadership we admit, but we cannot think its members are so far lost to manly feeling and shame, as not to resent such an insult to their independence of thought and action, as this Educational Bull contains—The hardness of a government that could dare thus confidently to assert what it intends to dictate to its followers, is only equalled by the presumption of the subordinate, who does not hesitate to be the medium of its publication. We fancy our Legislators assembling from all parts of the Province, filled with a knowledge of the injustice and absurdity of the present law, will be only too glad to unite in repealing it, instead of trying to secure an arbitrary and despotic mode of enforcing it. No one disputes the necessity of a good sound educational scheme—all agree upon this subject. But why call an incongruous law, a system, and try to force it into effect? Better that there should be no schools, than a law calculated to excite all the bitter feelings in us, and educate us to a resistance to law, and hostility to established authority.

#### THE CITY POLICE.

Our Police Force is not yet what it ought to be. Although the coat does not make the man, still the way the coat is worn frequently marks the character of the individual. As we pay taxes, we certainly expect to receive something in return for our money. When we hear of a renovation of the Police, we look for some external signs of improvement, and by these we are enabled to judge to a certain degree of the internal economy and efficiency of the Force. We have been sadly disappointed in our anticipations. There is something unmistakably slovenly in the appearance of the men. Why should they present such a hirsute appearance? Is there any virtue in imitating the style of hair-dressing of the untutored savage, or the semi-barbarous Mic-Mae? Is it because our rulers have a desire to strike more terror into the hearts of delinquent boys and intoxicated men, or is it because they fear that civilization is taking too mighty strides in this part of the world, that they permit the guardians of the peace to go at large with unkempt locks and straggling beards? If a superabundance of hair is to be worn, let there be an uniformity about it, so that we may know what to expect, but do not let a sudden apparition of hair and fiery coat collars startle respectable citizens out of their seven senses. We would suggest (if the princely pattern is to be adopted by our police) that they tattoo their faces, or what is to be seen of them, and carry a shield and javelin, say something in the style of the Ancient Britons of the time of Julius Caesar, only let it be uniform. Seriously speaking, why not have neatness combined with efficiency. If a moustache is to be worn, let it be a standing order that all who can, shall wear a moustache, but do not let one wear a moustache, another an imperial and no moustache, another a beard, and all long hair. We do not expect perfection at first, but we do expect that some attention should be paid to the personal appearance of the men of the Police Force, and especially that attention will only cost a little trouble. There is one thing to which we strongly object, and that is, the habit

which the policemen indulge in of carrying walking sticks. Now if anything to our mind bears the mark of imbecility, this walking stick custom does so. Have our readers ever seen three or four of these men together? If they have not had this pleasure, let them notice the phenomenon the next time they have an opportunity, and we are sure that they will be gratified. We saw an exhibition of this kind at the Shakspearian celebration when the Force turned out in strength; our sensation at first, when we noticed them approaching in the distance, (we confess it with something akin to shame), was one of terror, for we thought it was a huge centipede crawling along after the procession. We saw the men's feet distinctly but then we saw extra legs as we supposed, and our frames shook with an undefined fear as our fancy depicted the great creature above mentioned, following in the wake of our statesmen and leading men. Mirth soon took the place of terror as on nearer approach the mystery was solved, and the centipede discovered itself to be the Police Force and their walking sticks, and it seemed then to our humble vision very weak. The word Force was a severe sarcasm. It was no such thing. The walking sticks gave them the appearance of octogenarians and made them ridiculous in the eyes of the lookers-on. This custom has not yet been abolished but is still in full force under the new system. It is well that there should be Sergeants of Police, but ought they not to be taught to carry themselves erect? Some are round shouldered, and most are slovenly. Why are the Yankee hats worn by the men? Can any one suggest a reason why we should so far condescend to follow, even in this small matter, in the footsteps of our republican neighbours? There is no one reason that we can see for this style of cap. It is perhaps the ugliest that could have been adopted as well as the most unserviceable. A helmet such as the London Police now wear with a chin strap to hold it on, in case of an emergency, seems to us the most reasonable description of covering for the head, as it is not only more suitable in appearance but is also a real protection. There are many minor points which we should like to draw attention to, but we will not now weary our readers with any more details of Police economy, as it at present exists. We feel sure however that we are echoing the sentiments of thousands of our fellow citizens with regard to this matter—and although as we stated at starting, external appearance is not everything, yet it is, generally speaking, the index of internal management. And this is why we have called our readers attention to this subject. If we are on the verge of becoming a great people and worthy of ranking among the modern nations of the world, let us endeavour, in this one respect at least, not to be behind the age. Let us do away with our walking sticks for policemen, let their shoulders be square to their front, let them don the helmet and doff the Zouave Cap, let them cut off their beards and curtail their hair, let them be drilled and disciplined like all similar Corps are now-a-days, and then, when these little minor points shall have been attended to, we shall feel more confident that our laws are being properly enforced, our property efficiently guarded, and our lives and liberty safe from those who might be tempted to take either from us.

#### DEAR OLD MR. BULLFROG.—

I am sure you are an *Old* darling, you croak so incessantly, so you will excuse my taking the liberty of writing so familiarly to you. I ask you will print this like a dear, now won't you? I want to ask you to do something about that horrid mud. Is it not a dreadful nuisance? Papa declares he will not go out this winter, and he won't pay his taxes, and he grumbles all day about the mud, and he says he will never vote for any one again either Alderman or Mayor, because they don't care whether we are drowned in the mud or whether our eyes are cut out with the dust, and I should not like to lose my eyes. Charlie says they are so — well, never mind! Altogether dear Papa makes himself and every one uncomfortable around him, and I do so wish you would make those horrid old creatures of Aldermen turn out with their brooms and sweep the crossings. I see them sometimes sweeping the dust into heaps and leaving it to be blown about. I suppose on purpose to spoil all our new things. Arabella and I noticed last summer that whenever we put on our new bonnets and dresses, those nasty old Aldermen

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would be sure to be kicking up a dust. If they would only try to be of some use one would not feel so indignant—one naturally likes to look respectable when one goes shopping, but that is almost out of the question on muddy days. Arabella has tried to persuade herself that she knows where the crossings ought to be, so she made a fine display of herself the other day. She tried to step across the street on what she supposed was the crossing, but which turned out to be only a second slough of despond, when, if she did not nearly lose her life, she did quite lose her India Rubbers—and the most annoying part of it all was, that it was directly in front of the Club windows, and I know all those young men were looking out and making remarks about "fair ankled Hebe," &c., &c. † If this mud is to be left, we can't help it. So they must make their remarks I suppose. Arabella joins with me in kind regards to her old darling. I say that is highly improper. ‡ Please don't let Papa know who wrote this.

Your devoted,

ANNA MARIA.

\* We are not old, Miss Anna Maria. Your youth must excuse your rudeness. How would you like your a—, well—we will not finish, but remember the golden rule—do unto others, &c., &c.  
 † It is very bad taste of them to do so in your hearing. If you did not hear the remarks, it is very vain of you and Arabella to imagine that they were made.  
 ‡ It may be improper, but it is a kind of impropriety to which we do not object.

To the Editor of the "BULLFROG"

Sir—

We often hear through the Halifax press about the prosperity of the Country and how Nova Scotia is rising—there is no doubt she is rising into significance but it is nevertheless a fact that she (Nova Scotia) does not own one line of Steamers plying between any of her ports. The Steamers that come to Halifax are the Cunard Boats, and Halifax is only a branch office. The other line (Boston and Colonial) hails from Boston, and none of the steamers touching at the other ports are Nova Scotian. The steamers that go into Pictou are "Lady Head," from Quebec,—"Commerce," Boston line, "Princess of Wales" and "Heather Bell" belonging to the "Island." The other two ports (for there are only two more where any steamers call) Windsor and Digby are visited by the steamer "Emperor," belonging to St. John N. B. After this it seems to me very strange that a Country parading its greatness before the world should not own even one line of steamers plying from or to any of its ports. I think it speaks very little for its "enterprising" men to let any stranger slip in and secure a monopoly in any one branch of trade.

The steamer "Acadia" came here some time ago to be sold, and a very fine boat she is, a regular floating "palace," but the Captain could not induce any one to buy her and she has since been advertised to sail for Nassau and Havana. I think there is now, and has been for some time sufficient passenger and freight traffic to pay a line of boats—say two—to run regular trips to Nassau and Havana via New York, but where are the "enterprising" men we hear of; they have let many a good chance slip. The Canadians (no doubt as an inducement to the Nova Scotians to purchase her) named the steamer in question the "Acadia" but it appears it was no inducement, so I suppose we may give up all hopes of ever owning a line of steamers unless it is the one that plies on the Bras d'ar Lake from North Sydney to Baddeck &c, which has (I believe) a government subsidy.

Yours &c,

"TISY TIM"

[We suppose that Nova Scotian speculators are alive to their own interests; and our correspondent, however much he may deplore our lack of enterprise, will, we think, allow that it is better that we should profit by the speculations of others, than embark in an enterprise foreign to our tastes.—Ed.]

### Extracts.

#### THE AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORTATION QUESTION.

The dispute between the Imperial Government and the Colony of Victoria on the question of transportation to Western Australia has passed into a disagreeable stage. The wish of Western

Australia for a continued supply of penal labour was founded on no preceding right, and the question was to be determined exclusively on grounds of general expediency. Although the disposal of discharged criminals causes much difficulty and annoyance, the removal from England of a small percentage of the whole number offers a comparatively trifling advantage. As soon as the Government ascertained that the larger Australian colonies were in earnest, it ought to have gracefully satisfied their demands; and probably the more prudent course would have been adopted if the matter had not concerned two separate departments of administration. Mr. Cardwell is not bigoted to notions of Imperial supremacy, and his predecessor the lamented Duke of Newcastle, always felt a liberal sympathy for colonial aspirations; but while the Colonial Office may have inclined to favour the petitions from Melbourne and Port Phillip, the Home Secretary had his goals to clear and his tickets of leave to economise. When the subject was debated in the House of Lords, Earl Grey displayed with unusual success his remarkable talent for conveying unpalatable opinions in the least conciliatory form. By insisting on the rights of the Crown, and hinting doubts as to the sincerity of the complainants, he has produced the utmost possible irritation in Australia, and he has increased, as far as his power extended, the embarrassment of the Government. No statesman is honest, few are enter or better informed, and, but for an unfortunate incapacity to understand human nature Lord Grey would be one of the most efficient Ministers, or one of the most useful of independent politicians. He will perhaps be surprised to find that the rough victims of his criticism resent his appropriate taunts and convincing arguments by rude and coarse vituperation of himself, and by measures which, if they are not rebellious, are conspicuously disloyal. The storm might perhaps have been conjured up by Mr. Cardwell's despatch, but the angry newspapers and Lord Grey's mutinous Cabinet of Victoria, are careful to announce that Lord Grey is the special object of their resentment.

As the heads of a family are held responsible for the defective breeding of their children, England ought to feel some remorse in contemplating the manners of the numerous communities which have swarmed from the parent hive. The Americans, with all their great qualities, can scarcely deny that, at least, in their international relations, they have hitherto proved themselves the least courteous of mankind. Their communications with the Government of the Mother country have, without a pretence of provocation, been almost always deliberately uncivil in language, as well as unfriendly in substance; and their statesmen act on the knowledge that a more genial and respectful demeanour would be highly unpopular among their own countrymen. American vanity will perhaps be wounded by the discovery that Australia is still more youthful in its irreverence to the metropolitan Government. It may be hoped that Sir C. Darling has not officially transmitted to his superiors the irregular and offensive minute which he has received from his Ministers; but, on the whole, it is perhaps as well for the prospects of a future compromise that the colony, in its passionate inexperience, should have placed itself distinctly in the wrong. The Cabinet of Victoria—selected, in close imitation of English practice, by the Governor from the ranks of the Parliamentary majority—has entirely misapprehended the nature of responsible government. It is of the essence of the English Constitution that the Ministers are servants of the Crown, and that they are absolutely incapable of collective action, except in the form of advice to the Sovereign. Their substantial power is closely connected with a studious regard for the historical relation which, on ordinary occasions, may be mistaken for a fiction. If they are backed by Parliament they may practically coerce the Crown, but the possessor of the queen-ho must never forget that his power depends exclusively on the talsman which he holds. Sir C. Darling's advisers hold their offices at pleasure, and in the meantime their only privilege is to advise their principal, and their only means of procuring attention to their counsels is the threat of resignation. An English Prime Minister would instinctively fear to tread in the forbidden paths where the Chief Secretary of Victoria and his colleagues rush in without a moment's hesitation. Neither eloquence, nor party influence, nor European reputation would compensate for the usurpation by a Minister of Sovereign authority; and the obscure leaders of a little Australian faction have assuredly no personal importance which can counterbalance their blundering impropriety. Lord Palmerston is known, and Lord Derby is known, but who is Mr. James M'ulloch. At present it can only be said that he is a very presumptuous person, holding for the moment the post of Chief Secretary of Victoria.

This representative of responsible government actually informs the Governor of the Colony that he has addressed a circular to the Chief Secretaries of the other Colonies interested, inviting the co-operation of their respective Governments in framing a measure to be submitted to the consideration of the several Parliaments, prohibitive of all intercourse whatever with Western Australia, in order that her position as the only convict colony in Australia may be distinctly marked. If Mr. M'ulloch's correspondents understand their business, they will remind him that, until the Government of Victoria has acted through its Governor, invitations to co-operation by unauthorized persons are merely acts of seditious impertinence. The extra-

vagance of the proposed measure is less absurd than the method by which it is to be accomplished. No such proceedings can be adopted except by the sanction of the respective Governments acting in the name of that Imperial Crown which the autochthons desire to insult. Of course Australia, like any other dependency, may rebel, and Victoria may choose Mr. McCulloch to direct its disloyal action; but, within the limits of his office as one of Sir. C. Darling's Ministers, he has no right or power to communicate on any subject with any other Government. If the Chief Secretary for Ireland were, on his own motion, to propose to the Prime Minister of Belgium the common discontinuance of intercourse with Holland, he would not be guilty of a more outrageous anomaly than Mr. McCulloch and his unknown colleagues.—*Saturday Review*

### Local Items.

The Canada papers say the Imperial officers deputed to examine the Canadian and the American frontier, and to report on a system of defence, have reported that Canada can be effectively defended by a moderate force, against aggression, and have also devised a scheme of defence, which has been approved by the military authorities at home, and is about to be carried out as far as permanent works are required. This scheme is based upon the theory that no campaign in Canada can be continued during the winter, and includes the construction of entrenched camps and other works at vital points sufficient to arrest the progress of an invader, and compel him to resort to tedious siege operations by regular approaches.—*Et.*

**THE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT.**—The utmost unanimity and harmony characterized the annual meeting of the Board of Fire Wards, held at Engine Hall on Wednesday evening last. Samuel R. Caldwell, Esq., and James Duggan, Esq., were re-elected to fill their former positions, as Chairman and Secretary, respectively. The usual Committees were appointed for the current year, and a special committee was named for the purpose of co-operating with the City Council in the matter of a Drying House and a new alarm bell. A communication from parties in Windsor, Hants County, was read during the evening. This is in connection with a proposition to procure a fire engine for that place. The Fire Wards are of course the best judges in the matter of selling one hand engine out of the Department; but we venture to think that considerable discretion should be used in connection therewith. It is the opinion of many persons that, notwithstanding the augmented supply of water in this city for fire purposes, the Department cannot spare any one of our present hand-engines, under existing circumstances. No doubt one of the hand-engines ought to be stationed at or near Freshwater Bridge, and a second in the upper part of Spring Garden Road. The locating of a hand engine in the vicinity of the Wellington Barracks, near Isleview, was doubtless a step in the right direction. Halifax is rapidly extending in three directions just named; and it is just precisely at the points named, two of them at least, where the existing supply of water is least efficient for fire purposes; so that it is indispensable that the fullest measures of protection possible should be afforded to property situated as above.—*Reporter.*

We learn that Admiral Hope will not leave for the West Indies until after the arrival of the next mail from England. We have also heard it stated that the gallant Admiral would remain at this port all the winter, but we believe, in this instance, the general wish of the public is "father to the thought."—*Col.*

Another attempt is to be made to place a steamer on the Quebec and North Shore route. The *Quebec News* says: "The splendid side-wheel steamer Osprey, Capt. Patterson, will leave this port for Halifax, N. S., calling at the usual intermediate stopping places, on or about the 14th inst. The Osprey is quite new, with excellent accommodations for freight and passengers, and will prove an excellent substitute for the Acadia, which was found too expensive a boat to keep on the line. She was built to ply on the lakes, and is a staunch and thorough sea-going vessel in every respect. It is the intention of her owners to place her permanently on the route between Quebec and the lower ports next season."—*Pictou Standard.*

**GYMNASIUM.**—We are glad to learn that the premises, lately occupied by Mr. Coombs, in Granville Street, are to be fitted up as a gymnasium, which will be under the direction of Mr. Liechti, an excellent amateur gymnast, and a very worthy gentleman.—*Journal.*

**TELEGRAPHIC EXTENSION.**—During the past season new lines of Telegraph were erected from Pictou to Port Hood, and from thence to River Inhabitant—a distance of about one hundred and thirty miles, which are now in excellent working order, and have been pronounced by competent judges to be among the most substantial and best constructed lines of Telegraph on this continent. The construction was superintended by our old friend Joyce, who was assisted by Mr. Alexander Cunningham.—*Reporter.*

**TURNING THE FIRST SOB OF THE PICTOU RAILWAY.**—About 12 o'clock, when all the preliminary arrangements had been completed, the Hon. Provincial Secretary announced in a brief address the nature of the ceremony about to be performed.

After the sod was turned by Mrs. Scott, wife of James Scott, Superintendent of the Albion Mines, and wheeled away in a handsome barrow, by Mrs. McDonald, wife of the Chief Commissioner of Railways, Mr. McDonald took the stand and made a speech that was full of empty promises. Dr. Tupper followed, and in course of his observations, spoke of the projected confederation, of the unanimity of feeling which pervaded the several meetings of the conference, and of the glorious future that is in store for us when we become a part of that great British nation that is going to be built upon this side of the Atlantic.

After the close of the Hon. Provincial Secretary's address, Donald Fraser, Esq., M. P. P., introduced the Hon. Attorney General, who briefly addressed the multitude. His remarks referred principally to the advantages to be derived from the introduction of railways into a country.

After a few remarks from James Fraser, Esq., M. P. P., the Artillery Company fired a parting salute and the meeting dispersed.—*Chronicle*

**ST ANDREW'S DAY.**—Wednesday, the anniversary of the patron Saint of Old Scotland, was duly observed by the Scotchmen and their descendants in this city. Religious service was held in the various Scottish places of worship. The members of the Caledonia Club dined together at Wallace's in the evening—the attendance was numerous, and good natured conviviality reigned supreme. The dinner was served up in Wallace's usual good style, and we need scarcely say that it exceeded ample justice from the participants. The memory of the bards of Old Scotland was duly honored, and after the cloth had been removed toasts were proposed and drunk *ad infinitum* until a late hour, when the merry revellers separated and proceeded to their respective domiciles.—*Recorder*

### Summary of the Telegraphic News of the Week.

Latest advices from the rebel General Hood estimate his army at 35,000 men which was marching on Pulaski, Tennessee. He intended to operate in Middle and East Tennessee and Kentucky. Breckenridge and Forrest are also demonstrating in Tennessee in connection with Hood. All reports shew a very active campaign progressing in the southwest.

The Federal forces in that region are said to be strong and fully prepared to drive back the enemy.

Rebel pickets around Richmond are forbidden to exchange newspapers with Federal pickets.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of 21st calls frantically for Soldiers to proceed South to head off Sherman, and demands vigorous enforcement of conscription and repeal of all exemptions.

By arrival of vessels with exchanged Union prisoners from Savannah, at Fortress Monroe, papers from the former place to the 23rd, are received. They are filled with reports concerning Sherman's expedition which is announced as one of burning and devastation. Among the places reported captured and partially burned are Macon, Milledgeville, Monticello, Hillsboro' and Canton. In the latter place Governor Brown's residence was burned, railroads and telegraph between Savannah and Macon and between Gordon and Milledgeville reported destroyed.

Beauregard has issued an appeal to Georgians to rally and drive back the Vandal invaders, and says he will be with them soon, Georgia Members of Confederate congress at Richmond also make an appeal to the same effect.

As nothing official has been heard from Sherman, we cannot tell how much credit is to be given to these reports; evidently he is causing a tremendous panic.

Steamers for Europe (26th inst.), take about one million and a half in gold. During last night, (25th inst.,) fires were set in nearly all the hotels in New York, also in Barnum's Museum. Great panic was created and many robberies committed during the confusion. In each case the fire was extinguished without serious damage. Phosphorus was used—being placed in the beds of the several hotels.

A despatch from Louisville reports a strong rebel force in the vicinity of Columbia, and it was thought that a battle was fought there yesterday.

In Louisiana active military movements are reported.

Ten regiments of negro troops are being organized by the rebel Governor of the State.

General Buckner is reported at Alexandria with ten thousand rebel troops.

A Federal expedition to Lafourche district has defeated a Rebel force, destroyed their camps and captured a number of boats.

In consequence of the incendiary fires in New York, General Dix has issued a special order that parties arrested shall be immediately tried before a military court, and if convicted they will be executed without the delay of a single day.

A plot has also been discovered to set fire to the public buildings in Washington.

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Richmond papers of Friday contain contradictory statements in regard to Sherman's advance. They concede that he has captured Milledgeville and burnt the public buildings.

The Governor of Georgia has called to arms all the able bodied men in the State between 16 and 65 years of age.

The Governor of South Carolina has also issued a call for the able bodied men in that State to take the field.

Evidence has been obtained, showing that the facts of incendiarism, on Friday night, were the result of a plot concocted in Canada, by Confederate Officers. Four of the band are under arrest, including the Treasurer, whose remaining treasure in gold is also secured.

Gen. Dix has ordered that all Southern refugees in New York, shall register their names and otherwise give account of themselves.

The Federal Government has refused to receive the monster petition, containing three hundred and fifty thousand names, forwarded from Great Britain, urging peace between the North and South.

Georgia papers to the 22nd., are filled with facts and rumors of Sherman's march. They confirm the capture of Milledgeville, and the destruction of the Government Works and foundries at Crosswoldville, also that both wings of the invading army had gripped the Oconee River.

Slocum's division had captured Madison, and rebel papers say he had burned the town.

A large number of Federal prisoners held at Milan had been liberated by the Federal advance.

A reward of \$20,000 is offered for the arrest and conviction of the New York incendiaries.

On Monday night last, a force of some three hundred Confederates made a dash on New Creek, Virginia Station, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, twenty three miles west of Cumberland, and captured and burned the place. Another force proceeded to Piedmont five miles further, where they were repulsed by a force of West Virginia Volunteers. They managed however to destroy considerable railroad property, but had not time to seriously injure the track. A Federal force is in pursuit of them.

Advices from Tennessee, state that Gen. Thomas retired before Hood's advance without giving battle. Thomas was awaiting reinforcements which were being rapidly sent him.

It is stated that General A. P. Hill's Confederate Corps has been despatched to Georgia, by Gen. Lee, to act against Sherman, and that two divisions of Early's army have joined Lee, to supply the vacancy.

Schooner *Speed* from Sydney, C. B., foundered at sea, off Lunenburg, on Saturday night. Crew saved.

A rumor that the transport fleet had sailed from Hampton Roads with twenty thousand troops under Burnside, to meet Sherman on his arrival at Tidewater, is published. Government advices are silent upon the subject.

Thirteen thousand Federal prisoners confined at Salisbury, North Carolina, recently made a united effort to overpower the guard and escape. They succeeded in overpowering the interior guard and breaking through the Stockade, when they were met by a force of Artillery and Infantry which compelled them to yield. Forty were killed, and a large number wounded.

Richmond papers of 28th. say that Grant is massing troops on his left, and predict a speedy attack in force for the capture of Richmond.

General Schellfield officially confirms the victory gained by him at Franklin, Tennessee, on the 30th. The Confederates attacked with two corps, and made four desperate charges on the Federal works, in each of which they were repulsed. One thousand prisoners captured had arrived at Nashville. The Confederates killed and wounded amounted to six thousand. The Federal loss was about one-fifth that number, as they were protected by earthworks. The prisoners captured include one hundred and seven officers.

Gen. Thomas is now reported ready to assume the offensive, and a decisive battle between him and Hood is hourly expected. Nothing later, or more definite from Sherman.  
Gold 232.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT OF HALIFAX.

ARRIVED.

Saturday, Nov. 26th.

Steamer, *Osprey*, Patterson, Montreal via Pictou—to T. C. Kinnear & Co; Brig, *Gen. Shering*, Nassau, ballast—to J. M. Watson & Co; Queen of the North, —, Toronto, grain, flour butter &c—to W. Hare; *Matilde*, —, Bermuda—to J. N. Harvey; Schr. *Angola*, Crane, New York, 10 days, flour—to J. & R. B. Seaton; *Matilda B*, Renne's, New York 3 days, flour &c—to S. A. White & Co.

Sunday Nov. 27th.

Brig, *Iris*, Farrell, Boston, genl. cargo—to S. A. White & Co; Schr. *Dar'g*, Hanwright, Lunenburg—to D. Cramm; *Acino*, C 170, —, 1 day, oats and potatoes—to master; *Napier*, Osner,

Labrador, fish and oil; *Augusta*, Parker, Lewis, Pennant, lumber—to Master; *R. Noble*, Thompson, Sydney, coal—to Master; *Agile*, Fogar, Port Medway, lumber.

Monday Nov. 23th.

Brigs, *Victoria*, Maria, —, Sydney, coal—to Master; *Annie*, Grievie, Sydney, coal—to Master; *Schrs. Sea Clipper*, Kennedy, P. E. Island, produce—to D. Cronan; *Bloomer*, Shaw, Newfoundland, fish—to Lawson, Harrington & Co; *Autopole*, Porter Yarmouth, fish—to Black Bros. & Co; *Foaming Billow*, Glasgow, Sheet Harbor, lumbe, —to G. H. Starr & Co; *Transit*, English, Pictou; *Star of the East*, Bragg, Sydney; *Annie*, —, New York —to Young & Hart; *Alvie*, Harper, Cape Breton; *British Pearl*, Hally, Guysboro; *Renfrew*, McMillan, P. E. Island; *Zone*, —, Sheet Harbor—to W. Chisholm.

Tuesday, Nov. 28th.

R. M. S. *Delta*, Gulliford, Bermuda, 3 days, mails etc.—to S. Cunard & Co; New Brig, *Orion*, Curry, Ship Harbor, ballast—to Bell & Anderson; *Schrs. Emblem*, Green, Labrador, fish and oil—to Master; *Linnet*, P. E. Island, fish—to order; *Vision*, Gilchrist, Cape Breton, fish—to order; *Hiram*, Shaw, Sydney, Mackellar—to order; *Margaret*, Delory, P. E. Island, produce—to Master; *Louisa Agnes*, Stambuth, P. E. Island, produce—to Master; *Julia*, LeBlanc, Newfoundland, fish—to Master; *Deliance*, Babelna, P. E. Island, produce—to order; *Hero*, Reynolds, P. E. Island, produce—to order; *Friend*, —, Sydney, coal—to Master; *Beverly*, Jone, P. E. Island, produce—to order; *Charles*, Key, P. E. Island, produce—to order; *Trial*, Wolfe, Canso, fish—to order; *Hound*, Seaw, Sydney, fish—to order; *Ship*, British Lion, Mann, Liverpool, 42 days genl. cargo—to P. Power & Co; *Brig. Chebucto*, McPherson, Bermuda, iron—to J. N. Harvey; *Miranda*, Scott, Cape Breton; *Schrs. Express*, Besser, Glasse; *Graham*, Hopewell, Sydney; *Eglantine*, —, P. E. Island.

Wednesday Nov. 30.

*Schrs. Village Queen* Smith, P. E. Island, produce—to Master; *Bounty*, —, P. E. Island, produce—to Master.

Thursday, Dec. 1.

Brig, *Richard Brown*, Bollong, Cow Bay, 5 days coal—to J. C. Allison; *Schrs. Enoch*, Banner, Cape Breton, fish—to order; *Rising Sun*, Cunningham, Antigonish, produce—to McLean Campbell & Co; *Swan*, Publicover, Big Glace Bay, coal—to Halls & Creel; *Horton*, Wallace, New York, 5 days, genl. cargo—to J. Tolin & Co; *Union*, Levash, P. E. Island, produce—to E. Morrison; *Victor*, Thompson, P. E. Island, produce—to E. Morrison; *June*, Otis, Keating, P. E. Island, produce—to E. Morrison; *Topsy*, Atmore, Annapolis, produce—to order; *James*, Fraser, Sydney, 5 days, coal—to order; *Ellen*, Barratt, Arichat, fish—to order; *Brig. Rover*, Ryan, Jamaica, 22 days —to G. P. Mitchell.

Friday, Dec. 2.

S. S. *Francia*, Nickerson, P. E. I., 29 hours—to J. F. Phelan; *Brigs. Magna*, Charta, Cape Breton; *America*, French, Boston—to Lawson, Harrington and Co.—*Schrs. Alert*, Greenwood, Annapolis—to J. Whitman; *Wave*, Sedlitz; *Sarah*, P. E. Island; *Gipsy Queen*, P. E. Island; *Emigrant*, P. E. Island; *Progress*, P. E. Island; *Con*, servative, Fanel, Cape Breton; *Regent*, Cape Breton; *Isabella*, Whitman, Canso—to B. Wier and Co; *Susie*, A. Clough, Arichat—to S. Strong and Co; *Acadia Lass*, Boudirt, Arichat, —to; *Victoria*, Watt, Sheet Harbor—to Geo. H. Starr and Co.

PORT OF HALIFAX.

CLEARED.

Saturday Nov. 26th.

*Yacht Oceavia*, Golder, New York, lumber ex same bottom from Montreal—by Master; *Brigs. Sophia*, Cochrane, West Indies, fish etc.—by R. J. & W. Hart; *Wm. Muir*, Harding, Nassau, N. P. genl. cargo —by E. C. Twining; *Schrs. Mary Jane*, Terrio, Arichat—by Master; *Friend*, Westhaver, Nassau, N. P. genl. cargo—by J. M. Watson & Co; *Rover*, O'Bryan, B. W. Indies, fish etc.—by Edw. O'Brien; *John Joseph*, Shaw, Bermuda, genl. cargo—by B. Wier & Co; *John Taylor*, Mountain, P. E. Island, genl. cargo—by T. & E. Kenny, & Co; *Condor*, Rinkney, Boston, fish—J. F. Phelan; *Sea View*, Meniac, New York, fish—by B. Wier & Co; *Dashaway*, Reizer, Jamaica, fish etc.—by J. F. Bremner; *George McKoon*, Homot, Jamaica, fish etc.—by T. C. Kinnear & Co; *Vesta*, Kennedy, Cow Bay, C. B.—by Master; *Spry*, Kennedy, Cow Bay, C. B.—by Master; *Florence*, Ryan, Port Mulgrave—by A. McLeod & Co; *Western Packet*, McPherson, Port Hawkstury, genl. cargo—by Wm. Aikens, & Co, and others.

Monday Nov. 28th.

Brig, *Fawn*, Doat, St. Jago De Cuba,—by G. P. Mitchell; *Brig. Express*, Howard, Jamaica,—by N. L. & J. T. West; *Arat*, McEvoy, B. W. Indies—by John Taylor; *Schrs. Eclipse*, Smith, Glasgow—by J. G. A. Creighton; *J. Vandye*, Johnston, Nassau,—by B. Wier & Co; *Happy Return*, Doucett, Margaree,—by R. Noble & Sons; *Emily*, Gay, P. E. Island—by Baud, Gibson & Co; *Clara*, Messon, B. W. Indies—by G. C. Harvey.

Tuesday Nov. 29th.

Steamships, *Macrocladus*, Smith, Liverpool G. B. 65 pkgs oil—by Young & Hart, 34, do, do, 4 casks seal skins—by D. Cronan, 124 casks oil I, do, puns—Wm. Pitts; *Acadia*, Jacob, Nassau, N. P. genl. cargo—by P. Walsh and others; *Schrs. Helen*, Tobin, Newfoundland, Merchandise—by W. Hare; *Mary Ann*, Burke, Georgetown, genl. cargo—by T. & E. Kenny and others.

Wednesday Nov. 30.

*Barque Halifax*, (pkt) O'Brien, Boston, fish etc.—by Lawson, Harrington & Co, and others; *Schr. Julia*, Feuton, Boston, fish—by J. F. Phelan; *Steamer Franconia*, Nickerson, Boston; *Janet*, Kenny, Liverpool N. S.; *Kingston*, Chasser, New Brunswick; *Brigs. J. Bremner*, Swift, Providence, R. I.; *Ocean Bride*, Griffin, P. E. Island; *Schooners Juliet*, Simpson, St. John, N. B.; *Comet*, Lang, Boston; *Mary*, White, Margaree; *Gipsy Lass*, —, Yarmouth; *Ocean Bird*, Morrison, Port Medway.

Thursday, Dec. 1.

Thanksgiving day, Custom House closed.—No clearances.

## THE DOUBLE HOUSE.

"James, the house is let."

"Which?" said Mr. Rivers, never looking up from his dinner—for a dozen patients, scattered over a dozen square miles, were awaiting him.

"The house—the Double House. The one that every body thought would never get a tenant. But it has got one."

"Who?"

"A Dr. Mercheston, a physician; but luckily for us he does not practice. He is a man of large fortune."

"Married?—children?"

"I really don't know. But I should rather think not. Most family men would object to that very inconvenient house. It might suit an eccentric bachelor, who could live alone in the one half, and shut up his domestics in the other, looking the door of communication between. But for a mistress and mother of a family—dear me!—one might as well live in two separate houses. One never could hear the children cry of nights, and the maids might idle as much as they liked with—"

Here I turned round, finding I was talking to the air. My husband had disappeared. It was in vain to attempt to interest him about the Double House, or the people that were coming there.

But as to the rest of our village—speculation ran wild concerning the new-comers. First because a grave, dignified, middle-aged gentleman like Dr. Mercheston—of such composed and quiet manners, too—had chosen to live in this eccentric and uncomfortable mansion; for as before stated, it went by the name of the Double House and consisted of two houses joined together by a covered passage and door of communication, each having its separate entrance and being, in fact a complete dwelling. Secondly because, when the furniture was sent in, it was discovered to be the appointments of two distinct habitations: namely two drawing-rooms, two dining-rooms, two kitchens, and so on. The wonder grew—when Dr. Mercheston, accompanied by an elderly person, "Mrs Mercheston's maid," (there was a Mrs. Mercheston, then!) introduced into the establishment two distinct sets of domestics; two cooks, two housemaids, &c.

And now every body waited for the master, and mistress, who, we learned, had to make a long journey from London by post—for all this happened when I was a young married woman, more than forty years ago. I had my hands empty then—possibly, my head too, for I remember loitering about the whole day, and sitting lazily at parlor windows, just to catch the first sight of my neighbours. Nay, I will confess that when the chaise and four lumbered past our house I peeped from under the blind.

In the carriage I saw only the elderly female servant, and a figure leaning back. Dr. Mercheston was certainly not there.

Half an hour afterwards he galloped past in the twilight to his own door, which closed upon him as quickly as it had, a short time before, closed upon the others.

"Well, they are come," said I to James that evening.

"Who?" he ejaculated, most provokingly.

"The Merchestons, of course. And nobody is a bit the wiser."

My husband put on his quaintest smile (a merry man, children, was your grandfather)—

"Never mind—there's Sunday coming."

My hopes revived. I led a dull life in James's long absences, and had been really anxious for a neighbour—a pleasant neighbour—a true gentleman. Yes, of course, we should see the Merchestons at church on Sunday, for a large pew had been taken cushioned and hassocked to perfection; besides, the doctor looked like a respectable church-going gentleman.

And sure enough, when service began, above the high pew, distinct to the eyes of the congregation, rose his tall head and shoulders.

He was in the prime of life, though his hair was already, as we say of a September tree, "a turning." He had a large, well-shaped head, very broad across the crown, just where my grandam tells me lies the bump of conscientiousness; but we never thought of such folly as phrenology in my days. For the face—I do not clearly remember the features, but I know the general impression conveyed was that of a strong will capable of any amount of self-control or self-denial. The eyes, though honest and clear, had at times much restlessness in them; when stately and fixed, they were, I think, the saddest eyes I ever saw. His countenance was stately and pale, though he flushed up once or twice on meeting the universal stare—which stare increased tenfold when he actually repeated audibly and devoutly the responses which the Rubric enjoins on the congregation, and the congregation usually delegates to the charity-boys and the clerk.

Except this we could find nothing extraordinary in Dr. Mercheston's appearance or behaviour. He sat in his pew alone; he went out as he had entered, silently, quietly, and alone. In another pew sat two of the house-servants and Mrs. Mercheston's maid. The lady herself did not come to church at all that day.

It was rather disappointing—since, by Apedale etiquette, no one could call on Mrs. Mercheston until she had appeared at church. But we heard during the week that the Rector had called on Dr. Mercheston.

I tried to persuade Mr. Rivers to do the same—it would be only kind and neighbourly. After half an hour's coaxing, which apparently, was all thrown away, he briefly observed,

"Peggy, I've been."

"O! do tell me all about it, from the very beginning. Which door did you knock at? The one with a brass plate, and 'Dr. Mercheston' on it?"

"Yes."

"And you saw him? You were shown up to the drawing-room or the library—which?"

"Library."

"Was he alone? Was he polite and pleasant? Did you see his wife?"

"Two nods and a shake of the head were all the answer I received to these three questions."

"Dear me! How odd! I hope you'll inquire after her? How did her husband say she was?"

"Quite well."

"Nothing more?"

"Nothing more."

"Well—you are the most provoking man to get any thing out of."

"And you, my Peggy, are one of those excellent women who will never cease trying hard to get out of a man things which he absolutely does not know."

I laughed; for what was the use of quarrelling? Besides, didn't I know all James's little peculiarities before I married him?

"Just one question more, James. Have they any children?"

"Didn't ask."

So the whole Mercheston affair stood precisely where it was—until the next Sunday. Then, in the afternoon, as I walked to church, I saw a lady come quietly out of the Double House, at the left-hand door—not the one with the brass name-plate—close it after her, and proceed along across the road and down Church-alley.

She paused a moment in the church-yard walk, which was very beautiful in the May afternoon, with the two great trees nesting overhead, and throwing checkers of light and shade on the path leading to the porch. She looked around as if she admired and enjoyed this scene, with its picturesque groups of twos and threes—fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, lingering about and talking till the chime of bells should cease. She looked apparently with a kindly interest in them all, and then, as if suddenly conscious that they looked back inquisitively at her, dropped her veil and hurriedly entered the church. I heard her asking the sexton in a low voice, which seemed to belong to a woman still young, "what was Dr. Mercheston's pew?"

She was shown in, and then—being small of stature—she entirely vanished from my gaze and that of the congregation.

Could it be that this was Mrs. Mercheston?

I do not exaggerate when I say that I had six successive "droppers-in" on the Monday morning—in my great inconvenience, for I was making my cowslip-wine—I should say, my first attempt at this patent liquor—and that the sole subject of conversation was Mrs. Mercheston.

"What a tiny woman!" "How plainly dressed! why, her pelisse was quite old-fashioned." "Yet some body said she was young." "He does not seem above forty, either." "How strange that he should let her go to church alone—the first time of her appearance, too!"

Such were the comments, blended with a small quantum of lately-elicited facts, which reached me concerning my new neighbours.

"Very odd people—exceedingly gossip—ought to be inquired into," was the general conclusion. All the village began to discuss the Double House, the duplicate establishment, and the notable facts that, since their arrival, Dr. Mercheston had been seen every day, Mrs. Mercheston never; that Dr. Mercheston had come to church, Mrs. Mercheston staying at home and *vice versa*.

The result was the Apedale ladies cautiously resolved to defer "visiting" the strangers a little longer, till assured of their respectability, and I being myself a new-comer, having gossip, scandal, and censoriousness, with the virulence of wara-hearted, all credulous youth, inly determined to call next day.

(To be continued.)

## Advertisements.

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PHOTOGRAPH AND AMBROTYPE GALLERY,  
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Carets de Visite, Vignettes, Ambrotypes, &c., in superior finish. Large Photographs made from life or copied and finished in Oil or Water Colors, India Ink or Crayons. X. B.—Copying of all descriptions. [ ] Photographs of Confederates in Ram Tennessee, for sale. Also of H. M. S. Duncan, under full sail.

## Franconia.

New Books at the Army & Navy Book & Stationery Depot,  
155, HOLLES STREET.

Adventures of Rob Roy by James Grant, Esq.—(late of the 62 Regiment.)  
Godey's Lady's Book for December.  
Le Bon Ton do.  
Demorets Mirror of Fashion do.  
American Boys Book of Sports and Games.  
Ellena, by Charles Lamb.  
Oswald Gray, by Mrs Wood.  
Experiences of a French Detective, by Waters.  
Looking Towards Sunset, by Mrs. Child.  
A New Atmosphere, by Gail Hamilton.  
Gentle Life.  
L'Enfance Anglaise, by Rev. R. T. Ridge, M. A.  
Christ and His Salvation, by H. Bushnell.  
Melbourne House, by Author of the Wide World.  
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ALSO—All the late Boston and New York papers.  
GAME OF CROQUET. Z. S. HALL.

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All the Latest Magazines and Newspapers. Z. S. HALL.

## Please Notice.

The visitor of a large and very poor district is constrained to appeal to the Christian public for assistance in clothing, that she may be enabled to send the children to a Sabbath and weekly school. Covering for the head and feet will be particularly acceptable.

The above can be left at the Bible Depository opposite St. Paul's Church

## Medical Copartnership.

THE Public are hereby informed that DR. TULLER has entered into a Professional copartnership with W. N. WILKIE, M. D., a Graduate of the University of Edinburgh, who may be at all times consulted at their Offices 201 Hollis Street, (next door South of the Halifax Hotel.)  
Halifax, Nov. 15, 1864. In

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 A LARGE STOCK of the above, in every variety, will always be open for inspection. Exclusive attention given to the WHOLESALE TRADE.

**PORT WINE.**

The Subscribers have just received by the Brig "Tallot," direct from Oporto a supply of Hunt & Co's genuine Port Wine, consisting of

10 Hhd.	100 qr casks.	40 octaves.	Double Diamond.
10 "	100 "	40 "	Treble Diamond.
10 "	100 "	40 "	Four Diamond.

50 cases containing 2 dozen each	Bottled Port
50 "	"
100 "	"

20 Hhd. 200 qr. casks } PORT WINE, Grape mark.

Also in Warehouse.—One and Two Diamond Port of former importations. The above Wine is of a quality corresponding to the brands and such as the trade has been accustomed to purchase from the Subscribers.  
 Halifax, Nov. 18, 1894 H. A. CREIGHTON & SON,  
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**Gelatine, Spices, Citron.**

Nelson's Opaque Gelatine, Nelson's Brilliant do, Patent Refined Isinglass, Pure Ground Spices, Flavouring Essences in variety, Candied Citron and Lemon Peels, just received from the manufactory in London.  
 AVERY BROWN & Co.

**Albert Gem Biscuits.**

The Subscribers having been appointed Agents for the Sale of the ALBERT GEM BISCUIT, have just received by Mail Str. "Africa," a supply in small tins, which they offer for sale at a very low price.  
 These biscuits are supplied to the Royal Family and many of the Nobility of England.  
 LORDLY & STIMPSON.

**ATTENTION!**  
**JAMES SCOTT**

Has just received from England and France—  
 150 doz. superior Champagne, Hock, Moselle, &c. Moet & Chandon's, Clicquot's, Mumm's, and Prince of Wales Champagne. Superior sparkling Hock, Moselle, and Burgundy—pinks and whites.  
 300 doz. very superior reds and brown SHERRIES—Vino de Pasto, Amontillado, Bell, Fennie, & Co's, Lindays, Hornbrow & Co's. Woodhouse and Ingah's dry MARSHALA. Fine old MADEIRA.  
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 Fine old Scotch and Irish Whiskey. Hennessy's Moon's and Bell's Fine old pale and dark Brandy's, from 5 to 32 years old. Old Tom, Holland Gin. Fine old Jamaica and Demerara Rum.  
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 All articles warranted of superior quality and sent to all parts of the City free by express.

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 COGSWELL and FORSYTH, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Drugs, Patent Medicines, &c. Agents for Rimond & Saundor's Perfumery and Toilet Essences. Also Agents for Illustrated London News, Punch, News of the World, Whittier & Smith's, and all other English Papers and Periodicals, which are mailed regularly, immediately on the arrival of the mail from England. We have no business connection with any other House.

**PROVINCIAL BOOK STORE,**  
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 Books, Stationery, Music, Photograph, and Postage Stamp Albums, Engraving, Copy Books, Bibles, Church Services, &c. &c. Agency for all British and American Magazines, Illustrated and other Newspapers—Books imported to order at Publisher's prices.  
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 The bags manufactured at the above Establishment can compete both in price and in quality, with any imported into this city.  
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 TWENTY BAGS FILBERTS, 20 trials soft shelled Almonds. Fresh and good. Just received by  
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The above Printing Establishment is one of the branches of industry of the H. I. S. instituted for the employment of friendless boys, teaching them trades, and affording them the means of gaining for themselves an honest living. The Managing Committee solicit the custom of the gentlemen and merchants of Halifax.

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 THREE HUNDRED CASES of Men's, Women's, and Children's RUBBERS just received.  
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 Genuine English Medicines, Pure Chemicals, Choice Perfumery, and the best description of Brushes, Toilet articles, &c., will be found at the above establishment.  
 The strictest attention will be paid to the  
**DISPENSING DEPARTMENT.**  
 Leeches always on hand. Open on Sundays, between 2 and 3 o'clock for dispensing medicine only.  
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The BULLFROG Published Weekly price 2 cents per copy. Communications and Advertisements to be addressed to "The Editor of the Bullfrog," Office 111 Barrington Street. Advertising terms one sixteenth of a column half a dollar first insertion, every other insertion 124 cents, one eighth or one quarter of a column at the same rate.  
 The Agents for the sale of the "Bullfrog," are in this city, Z. S. HALL, MUIR, MACKINLAY, KATZMANN, GOSSIE, In the Country, BECKLEY, WINDSOR, PATTERSON, PIGOU, FIELDER, YARBROUKE, FERGUSON, Sydney, MCMILLAN, St. John, N. B., HOAR, Richmond Depot.  
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MANUFACTURERS PRIZE MEDAL MAYFLOWER TOBACCO.  
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**LAMES WOOL HOSIERY** READY MADE CLOTHING  
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Shirts made to order in superior style and shortest possible notice at  
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Respectfully inform the Musical Public that they give lessons on the PIANO, ORGAN, MELODEON, FLUTE, GUITAR, ZITHER, and in SINGING; and they are also prepared to receive advanced Pianists as pupils to accompany them in Sonatas, Duos, Concertos, and Solos, &c. They also give lessons in the FRENCH, ITALIAN, and GERMAN LANGUAGES.  
Terms in all cases reasonable. Enquire at Mr. Hall's or Mr. Muir's Book-stores, or at their Residence.

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CARRYING HER MAJESTY'S MAILS.

Running to all parts of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and New Brunswick, connecting at St. John, N. B. with the Eastern Express Company for all the Eastern States, at Portland with the British and American Express for all parts of the Canada, and at Boston with Adams's Express, Fish & Co., and other Expresses for all parts of the United States—Also at Liverpool, G. B., with the American European Express.

**FOR ALL PARTS OF EUROPE AND THE EAST.**

This Express forwards all kinds of Parcels and General Freight, Specie, &c, to all the above places. Also collects notes, &c.

Special Messengers accompany all Goods.  
Drafts in small sums to call on London, Liverpool and Paris.  
Expresses made up at this office twice a day for Windsor and Toronto; daily to all parts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, United States, Canada, (overland) and twice a week via Windsor and St. John. Fortnightly for Newfoundland and Europe; and monthly for Bermuda and West Indies.

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Liverpool—54 & 56, *The Albert*, and 5, *Chapel Street.*  
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510 & 520, *Hollis Street.*  
Chief Off. **FREDERICK W. FISHWICK, Proprietor.**

HALIFAX, N. S., October 22nd, 1884.

**EXTENSIVE FALL STOCK**

**SCHOOL BOOKS STATIONERY, &C.,**

A. & W. MACRINLAY have received per steamers *Sidon* and *Asia*, ships *Essex*, *Spice*, of the *Guiney*, and other vessels, a large part of their Fall Stock of School Books, Stationery, &c., which they offer wholesale and retail, on their usual low terms, for cash or approved credit.  
On hand—A large stock of the **IRISH NATIONAL SERIES OF SCHOOL BOOKS.**

**NEW GROCERY STORE.**

The Subscribers having removed from Ear town to the City of Halifax, return their sincere thanks to their Old Customers in the Counties of Colchester and Pictou for the generous support accorded them, and solicit a continuance of the same in their New Establishment, No. 24 CACKVILLE STREET, Opposite J. D. Nash's Variety Hall.  
Town and Country Buyers will find constantly on hand a choice selection of GROCERIES and WINES of the choicest brands suitable to their wants, at the lowest prices. Having large and commodious Store Rooms, they will take goods on Commission, and sell to the best advantage for the owners. Country Produce will be strictly attended to.  
HALIFAX, Jan. 7, 1884. **CHARLES GRAHAM & CO.,**  
24 Cackville Street,

CIRCULAR No. 18,

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.**

**AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL POSTMASTERS.**

**PATTERN POST**

BETWEEN  
*Nova Scotia and the United Kingdom.*

On and from the date Patterns of Merchandise may be transmitted by Post between Nova Scotia and England, by Packet, at the following rates of Postage which must be paid by means of Postage Stamps:

- For a Packet not exceeding 4 oz 7 cents.
- Above 4 oz, and not exceeding half a lb., 12 and a half Cts.
- Above half a lb. and not exceeding 1 lb. 22 cents.
- Above 1 lb. and not exceeding 1 pound and a half 37 and a half Cts.
- Above 1 pound and a half and not exceeding 2 lbs 50 Cts.
- Every additional half pound, 12 and a half Cts.

Special attention is directed to the following Rules and Regulations, which will be strictly enforced—

- 1st. No packet of patterns must exceed two feet in length, breadth, or depth; exceeding such dimensions, it will be treated and charged as a letter.
- 2nd. The Patterns must not be of intrinsic value. This rule excludes all articles of a salable nature, and, indeed, whatever may have a value of its own, apart from its mere use as a pattern; and the quantity of any material sent that it can fairly be considered as having, on this ground, an intrinsic value. Packets containing patterns of intrinsic value will be treated and charged as letters.
- 3rd. There must be no writing or printing other than the address of the person for whom the packet is intended, the address of the sender, a trade mark and number, and the prices of the article; otherwise this packet will be treated as a letter.
- 4th. The patterns must be sent in covers open at the end, so as to be easy of examination. Samples, however, of seeds, drugs, and so forth, which cannot be sent in open covers may be enclosed in bags of linen or other material tied by the neck, bags so closed that they cannot be readily opened, even although they be transparent, must not be used for this purpose. Non-compliance with this rule will also subject the packet to be treated as a letter.
- In all other respects the regulations of the Colonial Book Post will apply to the Pattern Post. Under these Regulations, in order to prevent any interruption to the regular transmission of letters a packet of patterns may, when it is necessary, be kept back for one Mail beyond the time when in the ordinary course it would be forwarded.
- The rule which forbids the transmission through the Post of any article likely to injure the contents of the Mail Bags or the persons of any Officer of the Post Office, is, of course, applicable to the Pattern Post, and any packet containing anything of the kind will be stopped and not sent to its destination.

General Post Office,  
Halifax, Nov. 12, 1884.

**HOUSE AND SHOP FURNITURE:**  
**VARIETY HALL.**

The Subscribers beg to call the attention of their friends and the public generally to their stock of FURNITURE. Having made some alterations in their business, they are now prepared to offer their stock for general inspection. Among their latest importations are

**SUPERIOR SINGLE AND DOUBLE IRON BEDSTEADS AND STEELCHERS.**  
Children's Cribs, old Clock Carpetings, Felt Druggets, Hearth Rugs, Cocoa Matting, &c., different qualities and widths. Also from Boston—Twenty new Bedroom Sets, some very handsome, containing 11 pieces. Bedroom Furniture, round end Wooden Bedsteads, Bureaus, assorted sizes, painted also, Mahogany and Walnut Veneered, marble top and piano; Mahogany and Walnut Haircloth, Spring-seat SOFAS, COUCHES, AND ROCKING CHAIRS (Cane and wool Seat Sitting and Rocking Chairs, in great variety; Children's Chairs in wood, cane and willow; assorted Cane and Wood Stools, and Arm Chairs, Hair, Excelsior, and Seaweed MATHRESSES, all widths, constantly on hand and made to order.

**FEATHER BEDS, BOLSTERS AND PILLOWS,**

assorted sizes; American Green Cane or Reed Blinds all widths; Wash Stands, assorted sizes; (Cloth and Towel Stands; Hall Hat stands; Round and Square Tables—Centre, Leaf, Toilette, Dining and Extension, in various woods and well assorted; **BIRD'S EYES**, a beautiful assortment; nests of Tubs, dozens of Buckets, Bureaus and other Fins. Travelling Trunks and Valises; Brass-mounted and Plated HARNESSES; Looking Glasses, and an endless variety of articles used by Housekeepers, and which can be purchased cheaper at VARIETY HALL than elsewhere. All Goods purchased at this place are sent home free of expense, to parties living in the city.

Cash Purchasers are allowed a Trade Discount.  
Goods given on credit to responsible parties at regular price. Intending purchasers are respectfully requested to call and examine our very large and varied stock, before concluding their arrangements for home-conveying.  
**J. D. NASH & CO.**

**The Genuine Cologne**

Is that made by JOHN MARIA FARINA, Opposite the Julich's Place, Cologne. In delicacy and durability of fragrance it far surpasses the production of every other maker. The Subscribers are always supplied with the above direct from the manufacturer.

**AVERY BROWN & Co.,**