

THE BULLFROG.

*Nec sinit aut ponit secures.
Arbitrio popularis aures.—Her.*

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FEDERATION—THE ENGLISH PRESS—SELF DEFENCE.

The Federation Scheme has now assumed an aspect which should make Nova Scotians doubly cautious regarding its acceptance. It has been praised highly in the columns of the English press, and the Imperial Government has urged its acceptance at the hands of the local legislatures. Her Majesty's ministers promise the Scheme all the assistance in their power. Now, let us pause and think what all this means. For many months the *Times* lost no opportunity of telling the world that the N. American colonies were a dead loss to the mother country, a drain upon her resources, a source of anxiety to her statesmen, a costly burthen too heavy for England to bear. How were such sentiments received by the people of this Province? We were told that the *Times* was unjust in its strictures, ignorant as to facts, and illogical in its deductions. We were told, again and again, that these colonies were kept by England for her own benefit rather for ours, and that every sixpence spent upon us by the mother country was more than repaid in a variety of ways. The policy of the *Times* was reprobated most heartily six months back, whereas it is now eulogised by those very journals that formerly denounced it. Yet the policy of England's leading journal towards these colonies has undergone no change whatever. It approves of the Federation Scheme, as a fancied opening towards eventually getting rid of Canada; but unless we greatly err, the English people are desirous of retaining Canada, provided the latter country is prepared to defend herself. There can be little doubt that the praise accorded the Federation Scheme has been called forth on the supposition that the details of the scheme could be accepted in good faith, as meaning exactly what they profess to mean, and under such circumstances the English ministry and the English press must necessarily rejoice. The impression produced upon the minds of British tax payers by the publication of the scheme are of the most cheering kind. They see a speedy termination to all trouble and anxiety regarding these colonies, and this relief is afforded them in connection with a prospect of lightened taxation. The English people are, as a rule, profoundly ignorant about Colonial affairs. They pay their taxes cheerfully, knowing that somehow or other a certain sum is annually expended upon our Colonial empire; but of the circumstances of the various colonies they know but little. To many Englishmen, the word Canada implies all British America save Newfoundland, whose breed of dogs is generally appreciated. We doubt whether more than one half of the members of the House of Commons know the names of the capital towns of this Province and New Brunswick; not one man in a thousand could even make a guess at the population of B. N. America. But every one knows that Colonial defence costs the country between three and four millions a year, and that of some thirteen or fourteen millions yearly voted for military purposes, a not inconsiderable portion finds its way into

the colonies. With what joy then must British tax payers contemplate a scheme which sets forth the willingness and ability of these colonies to become self supporting, and capable of undertaking their own defence. We can imagine the self congratulatory tone of those whose views are moulded upon the reasoning of the *Times*, upon learning from that journal that these colonies are anxious to take care of themselves. The exultation with which they read the details of the Federation Scheme must have been unbounded. Their patriotism has been enlarged while their taxation is to be reduced: they may well be proud of the population of these Provinces. "See here," one exclaims, "we have nursed another country into semi-independence,—in a few more years we shall be able to reduce our Army Estimates." "Can this be possible?" says another—"the news is surely too good to be true."—"Not at all," says a third, pointing triumphantly to the Federation Scheme,—“here we have it all in black and white—Militia—military and naval service and defence—ordnance property, amories, drill sheds, military clothing and munitions of war—How nobly these N. American colonists have behaved!"

Such is, doubtless, the language of those whose views find utterance in the columns of the *Times*. It is true we condemned the *Times* pretty consistently for some months, but now it is clearly the policy of the Federation party to applaud it to the echo! And if we, colonists, can applaud a journal hitherto regarded as unmistakably hostile to our interests, much more can the British public afford to do so. We can well understand the feelings with which English statesmen regard the Federation Scheme. They doubtless attach much weight to the simple declaration "Union is strength." Mr. CARDWELL, and his colleagues, may very fairly have reasoned thus:—"Here is an end to all our discussions with the N. American colonies. The disinclination to arm which these colonists have evinced for many years, has caused us much anxiety, but such anxiety will henceforth be spared us. The leading statesmen of British America have now come forward and expressed a wish to defend themselves, while at the same time they are beyond all doubt loyal to the core: the scheme is a noble one, well worthy men of Anglo-Saxon descent; it has the hearty approval of the Imperial Government, and we trust the colonial parliaments will also approve it."

Now, when we come to consider that Canada offers for purposes of defence only one million dollars, and that about half this sum is voted under the present system, we are at a loss to comprehend how self defence is to be maintained. Where can we look for an explanation of the item—"military and naval service and defence"? Naval defence, means, we presume, the establishment and maintenance of a naval armament upon the lakes of the Canadian frontier. How far will one million dollars go towards establishing and maintaining such an armament? Where shall we, in times of peace, find men ready to serve upon the frontier lakes? That the people of British America

would rise up as one man against aggression, we have not the smallest doubt; but to be efficient in case of war, necessitates training in time of peace, and once more we ask—where are we to recruit for our naval defence? It is one thing to train a militia force, but it is another thing altogether to train a naval force. Many men that cheerfully sacrifice a portion of their time to learn "soldiering," would rebel against being placed on board a gun-boat without ample remuneration. Even in England, where ordinary wages are scarce a third what they are in these Provinces, considerable difficulty is experienced in manning the Navy,—how then are we to man our Lake gun-boats, &c. and what will be the probable cost of so doing? These are questions which have never yet been even touched upon by the advocates of Federation. Where shall we seek for information upon the all important item, "military and naval service and defence"? Will the *Morning Chronicle* enlighten us upon this subject? The *Bullfrog* writers (whom the *Chronicle* is pleased to term "whipper-snappers") have the welfare and happiness of the people of these Provinces as much at heart as the *Chronicle* writers, and in the name of fair play we should like to see the monetary side of the defence question as temperately discussed as the other portions of the scheme. That England will endeavour to make Canada increase her yearly vote, is more than probable; that, in case of Canada refusing to do so, this great question will end in separation (a word we almost blush to write) is not altogether improbable. We do not mean to imply that England wants to throw Canada over; but unless B. America acts up to her professions as set down in the Federation Scheme, the Mother Country will be able to withdraw her protecting influence with a good grace. The basis of the proposed Federation is strength by means of unity, and unless we are willing to evince our united strength by acting up to terms framed by ourselves, England may justly say—"Since even the sanctioning of this great scheme leaves you only where you were as regards defence, your case is indeed hopeless—good bye, and God be with you." The mere fact of calling ourselves a great people, should stimulate us to bold, honest, searching inquiry as to the financial aspect of every item of the scheme before us. Who will calmly and deliberately count the cost of self defence? The item either means nothing, in which case English statesmen will (when the matter comes before the British Parliament) be justly incensed against us for attempting to mislead them;—or it means an expenditure, the taxation to support which will effectually check immigration and kill the prospects of so young a country. This is not a question to be systematically avoided, as it has hitherto been. The general impression among the mercantile community is that the defence items of this great Federation Scheme are a sham, and nothing more. Should such be the case, we are of opinion that the English Ministry will detect it, from the answers which must be given before a Parliamentary Committee,—and then—"Farewell, a long farewell to all our greatness."

WANTED—AN INDEPENDENT PARTY.

We are glad to find that throughout the whole country—from Amherst to Canso—from Yarmouth to Inverness—a great cry is being raised, if not against the Federation Scheme itself, against the manner in which it has been placed before the public. The words uttered, rather unseasonably perhaps, by Mr. MILLER amidst the great turmoil in the Temperance Hall "That Halifax is not Nova Scotia" obtain every day a greater significance. The 280,000 people who live beyond

the reach of delegatic oratory are awakening to a true sense of their position. They know the effect which flowery rhetoric can produce, they know that the leaders of both parties owe their position, past and present, in a great measure to the glibness of their speech, and they feel the danger of a coalition which unites on the same stage the oratorical power of both government and opposition. That there is a large party in the country with these opinions is proved by the tone of the country press, by the language of country members, and by the great desire evinced by the delegates themselves to address country audiences all over the Province, whether such be composed of their own constituents or not. When indeed, we consider the advantageous position occupied by the supporters of Federation, and the power wielded by the coalition, it is almost surprising that those opposed to the scheme should have made the headway that they have against it. This, though no argument against Federation, is a very strong one against the manner in which it has been laid before the people by the delegates. Notwithstanding the support of nearly the whole city press, notwithstanding the moral weight of a coalition between the two provincial parties, and notwithstanding the support of the British press and the Colonial Secretary, the cloud of opposition, which a few weeks ago was but as a man's hand, now spreads far and wide over the Province of Nova Scotia. The extent of this feeling is the more remarkable, since, until last week, no man of any weight had come before the public to expose the deficiencies of the Federation Scheme. In this respect we are far less fortunate than either New Brunswick, Canada, or Prince Edward Island. In all these Provinces opposition has been led by eminent politicians, by men who could rally round them a large number of supporters. In this Province how differently are we situated! We have a large party opposed to Federation and a still larger party opposed to the manner in which it is being forced upon the country. We all know that this party exists; but we cannot point out its leading men. We all feel that it ought to act, but except by the country press no action is taken. We allow Dr. TUPPER and his fellow delegates to "star it" unopposed in the various counties, working upon a rustic audience with a claptrap highly refreshing to the speaker after the heavy sophistical business of the city meetings. The two leading journals still pour forth to the remotest ends of the Province the desires of the delegates, and there is none to contradict them. On weaker minds Dr. TUPPER's famous saying that "he would force the measure if necessary through the *Houses*" has produced a slight despondency. All these things, however, when combined, must awaken those opposed to Federation to the precarious position in which they stand. It must show them with what manner of men they have to deal. It must show them that without a great effort on their part their voices will never be heard, and this conviction once adopted should stimulate all deserving the name of freemen to fresh exertions. In this city several gentlemen have raised with success the standard of opposition; but even in Halifax, the first attempt to show cause against Federation was frustrated by the interference of the delegates. The third meeting, however, proved that honest men, desirous of expressing their opinions upon a grave subject, are not to be browbeaten and discomfited by an overbearing Provincial Secretary and his satellites. The good seed then sown must not be allowed to decay. The time has arrived when, throughout the length and breadth of the land, those opposed to Federation must make their opinions public; when from every county, and every town, petitions through their respective members must be pressed upon the Lieut. Governor, urging that the matter be at once referred to the people; to the people who alone have the power of changing their own Constitution. The present members, having been returned

to Parliament upon totally different questions many liberals may fear that their petitions will never reach the Lieut. Governor. Were a member to refuse to forward a petition he would simply place himself without the pale of society. A member is bound to forward a petition whether he agrees or disagrees with its contents. It is the duty of every Nova Scotian who either opposes the scheme *in toto*, or who objects to the hurried manner in which it is liable to become the law of the land, to cry "time" and insist upon a general election. Two arguments will be urged against an appeal to the people. Firstly it will be said: "A general election causes great unnecessary (?) expense and causes a detrimental excitement in every part of the Province. It upsets men's minds and creates universal distrust and confusion throughout the land." If this argument be based upon truth, it applies with equal force to every election that has ever taken place in Nova Scotia, and supposes our population to be totally unfitted for self-government. Secondly it may be urged: "If you have an election now, the people will not vote upon the Union question at all. They will see exposed all the little faults and fallacies of both the government and opposition. Smaller cries—cries perhaps more personally interesting to the voters than Union will be heard at the polls, and the decision of the people will be given, not on the merits of Federation, but on the merits or demerits of some local scandal." We must hope that those who proposed this curious theory do not accurately represent the tone of our country population. The inhabitants of the country districts are not so foolish as to lose sight of a great question, affecting their interests for all time, to dwell on such paltry matters as have hitherto afforded them subjects for political conversation. These arguments against an election we fancy will have but little weight, far less weight than the voice of the government which is heard at the table of the Lieut. Governor. There are to be found the true obstacles to an appeal to the country. It is therefore to the Lieut. Governor in Council that an appeal by the people must be made. Finally, how would the Province stand, if the Union hastily entered into without a general election should prove a failure and obnoxious to three-fourths or even one half of Nova Scotia? A just and endless agitation for a repeal of the Union would be made by those who were never consulted in its formation. "We were never consulted" they might justly urge, "we will never be satisfied until appeal has been made to the crown that the voice of the country be heard on this subject." The delegates and their associates at Ottawa might smile an unctious smile at the troubles of Nova Scotia. They might treat the agitation as a piece of child's play. The excitement here, however, would soon border on rebellion, and endless trouble would ensue. It behoves then all lovers of their country, whether they be for or against Federation, equally to urge a dissolution of Parliament. If, as the delegates say, the whole country is in favor of the scheme, why dread an election which will ensure Federation and avert all future cavil and agitation? Those also opposed to the measure must come forth in strength now or never, and form a new political party in the Province. Let their cry be for "time" and a general election, that the whole people may express their opinion upon the scheme offered for their acceptance.

HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Much difference of opinion necessarily exists regarding the best method of conveying moral instruction to those whose limited means exclude them from first class colleges and schools. To improve a man's morals, and at the same time

to make him enjoy his moral training, is a task requiring a considerable amount of tact and judgment. To convey the moral of a sermon without preaching, is an art not learned in a day, but when acquired, it is an art almost invaluable. Moderation, is to our thinking the great safeguard of all associations formed for the moral improvement of mankind, but after all, moderation is one of the rarest of gifts. A want of moderation has ere now led to the break-down of numberless institutions, each and all possessing a germ of good. Upon no question is moderation more needed than upon an educational question which combines secular teaching with religious advancement. Of the comparative advantages of either course of tuition there can be no two opinions, yet the conditions which ought or ought not to regulate their combination, are often made matters of angry, though well meaning contention. How far considerations of this nature affected the interests of the Young Men's Christian Association during the past two or three years, is a matter whereof we know nothing; but this we do know—that the Association has, in a marvellously short time, not only regained its *prestige*, but made giant strides ahead. This fact is gratifying to those who appreciate good results, albeit such results may be brought about in a manner not altogether suited to their own particular views. That the Young Men's Association is a rising institution, cannot be denied when we come to compare its present with its former condition.

Twelve months back, it was a mooted question whether the Association could even exist; indeed, at the commencement of the present year, its warmest friends well nigh despaired of its success. An unusual effort was deemed imperative to keep the Association alive, and to the credit of the President, Mr. BROWN, and of his zealous supporters, Messrs. McLEAN, DUFF, STIRLING, ANDERSON, &c., the friends of the Association were readily prevailed upon to guarantee a yearly donation of \$1000. The co-operation of the clergy was also sought, and at a friendly meeting, convened for the purpose of reconsidering the constitution of the Association, and taking such steps as were practicable towards rendering it more attractive than formerly,—some important reforms were recommended. These reforms were subsequently carried out by the General Committee; articles 4, 5, and 6, were expunged, and it was resolved that "any person of good moral character may be a member of this Association by the yearly payment of not less than one dollar annually. He shall be entitled to all the privileges of the institution, provided he be proposed by a member of the Association."

One uncomfortable room in Barrington street formerly belonged to the Association, whereas it now possesses the whole upper portion of the large house recently occupied by Mr. FULLER as a book store. The Association, instead of possessing one room, as formerly, now boasts of several apartments, which are in course of being fitted up with every convenience. The library is at present in a condition the reverse of satisfactory, but the library committee is hard at work, and we have little doubt the public will encourage the efforts of the latter by donations of class books, no less than of standard works. Too much importance cannot be attached to the Library department. No books of real excellence, should be excluded in order to minister to the prejudices of any particular class,—on the contrary, it is imperative that the library should be so ordered as to become attractive to men of the most opposite literary tastes. To foster a taste for reading, it is necessary that reading matter should in the first instance prove palatable to individual tastes: once awaken a man's curiosity upon any given subject, and the chances are he will, in following out his whim for the time being, acquire some knowledge capable of being turned to account. We know a man who, from a careful study of — of BULWER'S

later novels, was induced to read the works of RICARDO, MALTHUS, and ADAM SMITH. Let none then affirm that works of fiction should be excluded from the Association: all really first class novelists aim at something more than narrative for mere narrative's sake.

We must congratulate the gentlemen connected with the Association upon the wisdom they have evinced in endeavouring to establish classes for cultivating tastes other than those commonly consulted for the sake of obtaining a livelihood. Music, vocal and instrumental, drawing, and other accomplishments will not be lost sight of; indeed if the Association under its present management fails to commend itself to the young men of this city, we shall be grievously mistaken. The newly organized establishment will in a few months be something more than a mere seminary—it will also be a club. And in order to accomplish this most desirable end, we would urge upon the Committee the expediency of closing the establishment for a time, in order that the several rooms may be comfortably furnished, the library replenished, and further support obtained. A little extra money judiciously expended would go a long way towards making the new premises a really pleasant resort. The Committee, supported as it now is by several Clergymen, may reckon upon public support towards engaging masters for the various classes (the committee, of course also granting monetary aid), &c., and otherwise giving a fair start to this excellent Institution. Prior to the reopening of the Institution some wise rules might be laid down regarding the management of the library, the policy of enforcing quiet therein, &c. &c. Upon the whole, the recent efforts of the Committee have been singularly successful, and we trust the Association will prosper as it deserves. We cannot conclude this brief notice without acknowledging the services of the retiring Secretary, Mr. FARQUHAR, whose zeal and earnestness in connection with the Association have ensured him the hearty good will of his fellow workers.

ANNAPOLIS.

The dwellers in the Annapolis valley have many points in common with the ancient Jews. Like the ancient Jews they dwell in a land conspicuous for its fertility; like the ancient Jews, a vast faith figures prominently in their character, and like the ancient Jews they appear to outsiders as a most peculiar people. Their patience, their docility, and the child-like trust with which they have so long regarded the so called conservative party is the talk of the whole Province. Through good report and evil report they have hitherto adhered to the followers of Judge JOHNSTON. What mattered it to these good people, if, after his fight against the possible government, that gentleman veered round, and, as a very radical, advocated an elective upper house? What mattered it, if, when the franchise failed in its working and was condemned as unsuitable, Dr. TUPPER plunged madly into universal suffrage, the most radical measure ever introduced into a British colony? The defects of the conservatives were as nothing to the people of Annapolis who prided themselves on belonging to the most conservative county in Nova Scotia. Dr. TUPPER, and Judge JOHNSTON may have erred, but they called themselves conservatives, and that sufficed for the dwellers in the valley. Now, this blind confidence may perhaps be highly commendable. It is just possible, however, that it arose from indolence and an undue straining of the maxim *quieta non moveat*. Be this as it may, "the last straw breaks the camel's back," and if the last straw has not been laid upon the much wronged people of Annapolis this year, it is difficult to know when it will be laid. If pledges violated, promises unfulfilled, and an unfairly delayed election, have not

assured the electors of Annapolis that their political faith rests on a broken reed, it is difficult to conceive that any thing will ever convince them that such is the case.

Of the many scandals with which the county of Annapolis is unfortunately associated, the greatest in political importance is the improper manner in which its election has been deferred. The extraordinary behaviour of the government in this business is more than a local scandal. It not only affects the privileges of Annapolis, but those of the whole people of Nova Scotia. It is not only in Annapolis that the conduct of the government should be censured, but in every county and town of the Province, since unless things change greatly, the same disgraceful postponement of an election may occur at any time. State necessities require the creation of an extra Judge and Mr. JOHNSTON accepts the appointment. His seat is vacated in May, and a writ for an election to fill it is forwarded to the Sheriff in December! Now, we do not wish to make too much of this extraordinary affair. We do not wish to accuse the government of a direct breach of the constitution. "All's well that ends well," and if the government falls into the pit which it dug for others, and Mr. Ray be returned for Annapolis no great actual harm will have been done. But however the election may terminate a most dangerous precedent has been established and a precedent which if allowed to pass unquestioned, may at some future time lead to most disagreeable consequences. If no protest be entered against the conduct of the government in this case it will be an established thing, that a government has the power to defer an election in any county or town from the close of one session until the beginning of the next, that is to say from April or May of one year until February or March of the next. Now, there is a very wholesome custom which obtains in all countries whose constitutions are based upon that of Great Britain. It is this—The Sovereign, Governor, or Lieut. Governor never prorogue the house over a period of more than three or four months—thus, at the close of the Nova Scotian Session for 1864 we find the following passage at the end of the speech delivered by the Administrator of the Government:—"It is my will and pleasure that this General Assembly be now prorogued until the 14th of July next, when it will here re-assemble," &c. &c.

The value of this custom is obvious. Though it may be highly improbable that any emergency should render an extra session necessary, it is desirable that members should be prepared to take their seats in the Assembly, should such an emergency occur. In England at these formal meetings of the houses, the Lord Chancellor, a few officials, and the Speaker of the lower house represent the two assemblies, and the former pronounces a further adjournment in the name of her Majesty. In Nova Scotia, this office is performed by the Lieut. Governor in Council. In England the law demands that election writs be issued immediately after a vacancy occurs, and in all cases before the nominal reassembly of parliament, after the adjournment during which the vacancy occurred. In Nova Scotia, custom has hitherto, in this matter, supplied the place of law. On what conceivable grounds then can Dr. TUPPER's government justify their extraordinary conduct? Let us suppose that in September it had appeared necessary to the Lieut. Governor to summon his Assembly, that its authority might be given to the despatch of Delegates to Canada. Parliament would have been assembled hurriedly, have sat perhaps for three days, and been then further adjourned. How would Annapolis have been pleased at finding herself but partially represented? Yet this sort of thing may occur at any future time, if the conduct of the government on this occasion is allowed to pass unquestioned.

We believe the Speaker of the lower House is to a certain

extent responsible for hardly possible that raised, or supposed to political party, can lead the party now in power the Government or the remains—Annapolis from May to December electors of the valley pure trouble of all that ed upon them. Other added to the incubus bear upon their shoulders to be to the government. "No Railway extension conservative cries which last election, that the returned, after many Railway extension as for their own county, expenditure in the W considerably damp the a self-styled conservative Dr. TUPPER in particular exhibit their mad love feited all claim to the affection for men who and have infringed upon their own shoulders in which it may suit the Cheerless and rayless toy of Dr. TUPPER stock of Nova Scotia.

But few people were on Wednesday. The streets ankle deep in excusable. But, des streets, the side walk ladies and gentlemen more prolonged than the state of the atmosphere, in order to lead of us have heard discourse this topic would, so minutes conversation in doors until the which period we shall "constitutional." A somewhat heavy fall, ing to prevent a similar by not less than the sex. Retreat was hoped; but by means possible that (considering pending crisis might it was no use,—there on Monday—h to the Rink this winter is, after all,—"But This is the old story.

Well reader, the I than otherwise. To ly designed to let in chilling. To be alone pressing; to be in

extent responsible for the issue of election writs. It is hardly possible that a personage who by his position is raised, or supposed to be raised, above an allegiance to any political party, can have succumbed to the blandishments of the party now in power. However this may be—whether the Government or the Speaker be to blame, the broad fact remains—Annapolis county has remained unrepresented from May to December. This insult to the freedom of the electors of the valley is perhaps the most pregnant with future trouble of all that have been during the past year heaped upon them. Other political delinquencies, however, have added to the incubus which the conservatives of Annapolis bear upon their shoulders, tied as they have believed themselves to be to the great conservative party of Nova Scotia. "No Railway extension and retrenchment" were the pseudo conservative cries which convinced the apple districts, at the last election, that the great party to which they belonged had returned, after many wanderings, to its former principles. Railway extension eastward, the airy promises of a railway for their own county, and a general insinuation of a prodigal expenditure in the West, should Mr. REEN be elected, must considerably damp the ardor of the Annapolis population for a self-styled conservative government in general, and that of Dr. TUPPER in particular. If the people of Annapolis still exhibit their mad love for a party which has long since forfeited all claim to the name it bears—if they still show their affection for men who have done their best to deceive them, and have infringed upon the liberties of their electors—upon their own shoulders must rest the blame of any future tricks which it may suit the government to play upon them. Cheerless and rayless will be their position, the acknowledged toy of Dr. TUPPER and—it is not impossible—the laughing stock of Nova Scotia.

CHIT CHAT.

But few people were abroad on Tuesday last, still fewer on Wednesday. The weather was unpropitious and the streets ankle deep in melting snow; in fact, "rubbers" were excusable. But, despite the weather and the state of the streets, the side walk conversations between such young ladies and gentlemen as happened to meet accidentally, were more prolonged than usual. The orthodox commentaries upon the state of the atmosphere were got through in double quick time, in order to lead up to an all important topic which some of us have heard discussed before. The moral certainty that this topic would, sooner or later, in the course of a five minutes conversation be forced upon us, kept us timidly within doors until the lamplighter had made his appearance, at which period we sallied forth bent upon a somewhat dreary "constitutional." After sustaining a rude shock from a somewhat heavy fall, and a terrific wrench from endeavouring to prevent a similar mishap, we found ourselves confronted by not less than three casual acquaintances of the softer sex. Retreat was hopeless, and we knew what we had to expect; but by means of exceeding volubility it seemed just possible that (considering the lateness of the hour) the impending crisis might be averted—at least for a season. But it was no use,—the question came out at last—"you weren't there on Monday—how was that? Surely you intend to come to the Rink this winter!" "Well, yes,—but really skating is, after all,—" "But you got on so well last year," &c. &c. This is the old story, isn't it reader?

Well reader, the Rink is, after all, rather a dismal place than otherwise. To find oneself inside of a building expressly designed to let in the cold is, to say the least, somewhat chilling. To be alone in the Rink is of all solitudes the most depressing; to be in it when it is crowded is to be at a so-

cial gathering unsurrounded by any of the ordinary adjuncts of sociability. Our Christmas notions of sociability are to a great extent connected with cheerful fires, closed shutters, and drawn curtains; or with a clear, bracing atmosphere, and invigorating exercise. Skating upon a lake, studded with cheery faces and blithesome forms, is most enjoyable. The clear sky, the bright sunshine, the marginal evergreens, and the pure, frosty air, each and all tend to keep us in good humour. But the Rink! well, it may be seen under various aspects, each and all more or less gloomy according to the tone of individual minds. But we must get there,—how shall we go? Let us take a cab reader, eh! By all means.

The Rink is empty—well, so much the better. It certainly looks larger inside than it does without, but so would any one-storied building of a single apartment, unfurnished. The ice looks very smooth and nice, but somehow one feels more inclined to sit down and look at it than to hasten that terrible business of putting on skates. However, it's no use sitting down doing nothing when we've just paid for a cab. This gimlet is not the smallest use—perhaps there's a better one in the dressing room. No, how provoking! But we must get on our skates somehow—what a fool that boy will think us if he happens to come in, and finds us gazing helplessly around the Rink when there's no one in it but ourselves. Try the gimlet again. Ah—at last. But the exertion has been tremendous, and we must rest awhile. What time is it?—one o'clock—been here half an hour already—how absurd!

Scur-r-r-r-hisse,—all right; take care of the corner—oh!—isn't the ice hard! No matter, try again,—that's better—that's much better—down again! At this period it is absolutely necessary to sit down and examine our skates, the more so as Miss Tomkins has just come in. What a long time that woman always stays in the ladies' room when the Rink is empty! Ah, here she comes, and here will she remain for the next five hours. Well, that's her look out. What time is it now?—ten minutes of two—been here nearly an hour and only gone round twice. We must start off once more. There, what do you say to that reader? three times round without a tumble! we'll try the outside edge to-morrow. Miss Tomkins hasn't improved one bit. Well, why shouldn't she sit down; it must be rather provoking to have the ice all to herself before a breathless audience of one. We're not looking at her, not a bit of it,—but it would be hard to make her think so. But no wonder: When there are only two individuals in an unfinished room with a slippery floor, it is almost impossible for them not to watch one another. It is absurd reader, isn't it,—to see Miss Tompkins sitting down at one end of the Rink and your esteemed friend Mr. BULLFROG sitting down at the other end? It is simply ludicrous. Come reader, we'll look in again at five o'clock on Saturday next.

Communications, &c.

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

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

To H. B.—Your communication is unfortunately too long. It is rarely indeed we are able to set apart any space for a Poets Corner.

CHRISTOVA, and EAGLE EYE—Will appear in our next.

COUNTRY NOTIONS ABOUT FEDERATION.

To the Editor of the "BULLFROG"

"Federation of the Provinces" was Dr. Tupper's theme, the other evening, before a Wolfville audience. Like an itinerant preacher's stock sermon it was a reiteration of the "Temperance

Hall Oration" previously delivered in Halifax, slightly embellished with a handful of *Stote secrets*—thrown in—to tickle the fancy, and feed the vanity of this "intelligent audience." His determination "that the Scheme shall be thoroughly sifted by you, so that if it does not commend itself to the favor of the people, those opposed to it will have the opportunity of knowing that their opinions have received due attention,"—is probably all the "opportunity" the opponents to the "scheme" will receive at the Doctor's hands. His idea of "dealing with the question on its own merits" evidently consists in attending "opponents meeting" and giving the signal for factions and disgraceful disorder. In fact, having had a "fair field" and all the favor to himself, he is now prepared to brow-beat his opponents for lack of arguments. It remains to be seen how the "Federation Scheme" will advance, under this mode of "thoroughly sifting" it, and whether a "Halifax mob" can, under any guidance, effectually close free speech.

The adjourned meeting was for the purpose—announced—of affording the opponents of "Federation" an opportunity of expressing their "views," not for Dr. Tupper's benefit, who had already "delivered himself" at great length—both on the platform and in the press. All sides must condemn such unfair and intemperate action.

But, to return to the Wolfville Oration:—in true "Stump gasconading style" the Doctor elaborated the sentiment that "We are the most loyal people under the Sun," and then proceeded "largely to assume" facts and figures in a manner that would have astonished the great "Munchausen" himself. A population of under 3½ millions is "assumed" at 4 millions, and comparisons on taxation are drawn on this supposition calculated to deceive. We are told that—"instead of being one of a country of 300,000 members, we may belong to a nation of 4 millions, "and that such a scheme must give" elevation of character to our public men, and advance the status of every free man in the country." Who that hears such "fustian" as this, but will conclude that we have only to turn to Canada for examples of public men, who for honesty, integrity, and "elevation of character" will far surpass Dr. Tupper, Mr. McCully, or Mr. Archibald, simply for the reason, that "elevation of character" can only be found in a larger population than Nova Scotia possesses? Yet, in the same proportion, the Statesmen of "Jonathan's dominions" must tower "head and shoulders" above those of Canada. The student of the United States rebellion, or one familiar with railway history of Canada, would scarcely find anything to adore in Seward, except ruffianism: in Lincoln, except coarse jokes and confused orations and State papers—and the "Grand Trunk Railway" will ever render Hincks and Galt famous in Canadian History. Does Dr. Tupper desire a "Federation" in order the better to rival these? Then again, *Bluenose* will have his *status* advanced. How Doctor! from 10 to 20 per cent advalorem!—from a man "possessing the finest cottage, the best tilled farm in B. N. America" free from heavy indirect taxation, and free too—from all visits from a *direct tax-gatherer*, (except for his paltry county charges)—to that of Canada as Vassal!—subject to the mercy of the Statesmen of "elevated character."

Dr. T. says: "The antagonism of races, forever puts a bar between the Upper and Lower Canadians, and that of necessity we shall hold the balance between these two races, (although having only 47 members in a General Parliament of 194, and thereby have more power than both—more in fact than we may justly claim."

Suppose the question to arise,—and most assuredly it will; Shall we (the Canadas) impose on this Confederation an advalorem duty of 20 or 25 per cent, taking care to include all articles largely used in the Lower Provinces? What then becomes of this boasted protection? Upper and Lower Canada in accord, as they would be on such questions—the Lower Provinces must go to the wall, and feel the heel of Canadian members—steeped to the lips in debt themselves, many of their towns and cities bankrupt. "For sale"—branded on their front—Quebec begging for a Mayor, her invitation declined, and her corruption thrown in her teeth—with rival races, and religions, with public men who have already broken faith with us on the Inter-colonial Railway question! We are told, forsooth!—"If we do not accept the terms of Union dictated by Canada" we shall get no other; Canada—Master of the situation—indeed!—with her

Government tottering before every varied blast of French, or English jealousy, or rancour, and forced to seek some change. Axious for an outlet on the Atlantic, to bring British aid to her defence in her day of trial, forced to find this Military road (and through our territory), or halt in her apathy with an enemy on her boundary line. Holding out to us, indeed! the Inter-colonial Road as a bait to submit to her terms—as a panacea for any burthens her necessities may impose on us! England too, is brought in by Mr. McCully, and quoted as authority in favor of this scheme. Does he not know, that a Confederation based on fair terms, may be desirable from any stand point. Yet, so long as such Confederation is effected, the separate interests of Nova Scotia, as one of the parties to this bargain, does not obtain a passing thought in England. We, Nova Scotians, must see to it ourselves, that the terms we obtain are just and fair—that is our business—and England leaves the details of this Scheme entirely in our own hands, and if we make foolish bargains with Canada, or any body else, England's opinion, or our own, as to the desirability of a Confederation on a sound basis, will not remedy the evil, or bring back our rights in the smallest particular. The "London Times," too, was proudly referred to by Dr. Tupper, "as having been opened to the addresses of himself and other delegates on this question, when not so much as a square had ever been given to a notice of Mr. Howe's cleverest efforts, in England or elsewhere, except to bestow a passing sneer, &c! "The Times" may be a "power in England" but her interest in Nova Scotia's good or bad bargains with Canada may well be doubted. Her correspondent has seen our "flat-footed squaws" at all events—and, possibly, some of these squaw's sons. "The Times" can brow-beat when it suits its humor, and "British America" was a theme it always held in reserve. Possibly, had Rothschilds *done* our Railway debentures instead of Messrs. Baring, we should have heard less of "squaws." The Doctor, however, will now be bound in honor to transfer the new Railway account to the "Thunderer's Financial Man."

Dr. Tupper, in one portion of his address, asserts that "Representation by population" is the correct basis of an Union, and ends by attempting to shew that this is not our status in reality—that the delegates have in point of fact, secured some thing more for us. I have shewn our reliance on "that antagonism" to protect us from a ruinous tariff is a mockery, a delusion, and consequently the lower Provinces require something more for their protection than the talents of their delegates have yet obtained. Representation by population is not the rule in England—classes and interests are studied; and the manufacturer, the agriculturalist, the merchant, the scholar, &c, have their several interests represented in the House of Commons. Representation for B. N. America, should provide, first for the just balance of interests, divided under three heads—viz., Upper Canada, Lower Canada, and the Maritime Provinces, and it is in the latter we are interested, and as each of these lower Colonies are prosperous, their populations more intelligent—and worth more average rateable property per head—raise more proportionate revenue under a 10 or 12 per cent, advalorem, and as they are also comparatively free from debt—why should they change their Condition, if for the worse? "Self Preservation is a first law," let them refuse then to become parties to this Confederation until the Canadas concede to them fair and equitable representation, such as will secure to them the ability to protect fully and amply their own interests. With unlimited powers of taxation in the Federal Commons, and only 47 members to look to as our protection—our safety is in jeopardy,—our freedom a myth—our rights are being treacherously stolen away—the people have no voice in this bargain and sale. Then, let His Excellency, Governor Mac Donnell dissolve the House, and let the people decide this question. Let not an alliance of Government and Opposition Leaders—ill-assorted and suspicious as it is—be taken for the "Voice of the people." Give us fair play Sir Richard—Let not an Assembly elected on miserably deceptive promises of "Retrenchment and no railway extension" be recognized as representing the opinions of the people on this momentous question—as having the right and the power to "sell and convey" away our rights and freedom. If the terms are as favorable as the "Delegates" would have us believe, there can be no fears on

their parts in sub- they decide that that the terms of opponents of this

The Doctor's debt of Canada, his "intelligent of late—have no debt of the Pro ourselves to full you can, the most solemn visions tion in Joe Howe one million pou positively pledg this too as a pre rule! Inanimo McCully, and in debt, and in debt in an equ union, as well Scotia shall go way of variety, Scotia may as application of and put a new the reasons giv nose! If Dr. disports his fig light of retreac

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their parts in submitting the question to such a tribunal, and if they decide that 19 members will sufficiently guard our interests, that the terms of the "bargain and sale" are satisfactory, the opponents of this scheme assuredly shall be content.

The Doctor, says "The opponents to this scheme, suggest the debt of Canada as an objection," and in a jocular way informs his "intelligent audience" that as "Nova Scotian Governments of late—have unfortunately shown a disposition to increase the debt of the Province, it is only necessary to go deeper in debt ourselves to fully qualify us for this partnership." Imagine, if you can, the man and the party who have seen blue ruin, solemn visions of executions, jails, starvation and fell destruction in Joe Howe's Government Railway expenditure of about one million pounds sterling, within a few years heartily and positively pledging himself to double our debt at one dash, and this too as a preparation to additional taxation under Canadian rule! Imagine a shipbuilder proposing a partnership to Mr. McCully, and at the same time informing him "I am fearfully in debt, and in order to make matters fair, you too must run into debt in an equal proportion"—debt would be the basis of that union, as well as of this. In fact Dr. Tupper wills, Nova Scotia shall go in debt a few millions of dollars additional by way of variety, under any given state of things, and says Nova Scotia may as well quietly submit to the operation, as one application of the Confederation plaiser will heal all wounds, and put a new face on this beighted land—such are some of the reasons given in favor of Confederation—Alas poor Blue-nose! If Dr. Tupper plunges us fearfully in debt and finally disports his figure at Ottawa—will Nova Scotia regard it in the light of retrenchment?

Then again, Mr. Archibald and Dr. Tupper assume our Revenue from Customs, Excise and Light to be handed over to the General Govt. at	\$894,332
And Assume we receive again Interest on 8 millions of Debt.	\$480,000
80 Cents per head on 330,000	264,000
left under local control ———	226,000 970,000

Leaving a balance in our favor of \$ 75,668

Now, if it can be shown that this is a delusive calculation used to support the Confederation, I think you will say I am justified in concluding that the Scheme has most effectually failed to secure the rights and interests of Nova Scotia—that the statement is calculated to deceive, and savors of the style of argument an advocate would adopt in the most criminal case imaginable. The impression sought to be conveyed is, that \$895,000 is all we shall be called upon to pay—whereas this sum is raised under the present 10 per cent advalorem tariff, and to that sum should fairly be added the increase the Federal Government will impose, which Dr. Tupper "assumes" at about 15 per cent—mark, about 15 per cent, with only a protection of 47 members in 294 to prevent its being raised to 20 or 25—and hereafter as much higher as they may decide. We are within bounds then, especially in view of the uncertainty of the Doctor's 15 per cent, in placing the revenue the Federal Government will collect in Nova Scotia under a raised tariff, at not less than \$1,341,498 yearly, forever—or until the unrighteous compact culminates in Rebellion.

Then again, in order to make the sum of \$480,000 interest, the Government employs Avard Longley, Esq., to expend upwards of 3 millions in Railway construction, and we are of opinion when the "right of way" comes to be taxed on the farmers of Kings and Annapolis, they will duly appreciate these "figures of speech" as akin to the tax gatherer. In short—we are to plunge deeper into debt—first to please Pictou—then to square the account with Annapolis—and have the benefit of our *own* money to pay the interest thereon.

The credit of \$264,000, subsidy, is simply an allowance of 80 cents per head granted us in common with the other Provinces, and who will fail to see that Canada has the best of the bargain in this matter also—The account then should stand—

Amount raised by Federal Government in Nova Scotia	\$1,341,498
Add nett profit past year on our railroad	\$21,712
And amount improperly deducted that year 5,032	\$26,744
	\$1,368,242

Less Federal Government will pay N. S. 80 cents per head	\$264,000
Interest on 3 1/2 Mills Inter-colonial Railway 172,000	172,000
Interest on 8 million debt	480,000
Towards Militia Salary Judges, &c., say 125,000	125,000
	1041,000

Loss to Nova Scotia 327,542
or nearly twice our share of interest on the Inter-colonial Railway.

That the delegates calculations are unworthy of credit, the *Bullfrog* has already shown, and as this letter has outgrown the usual limits, I may hereafter show the fallacy of Nova Scotia ever becoming commercially great by manufacturing for a Canadian market, &c. I may say however, the Doctor—first holds up the obtaining the Inter-colonial Railway as an important reason for our submitting to the terms proposed by Canada—argues as if Canada built that free, to repay us for surrendering our liberty and submitting to additional taxation—and then in the close—turns square round and says:—"In addition to all other benefits Confederation will bring you the Inter-colonial Railway, valued by our Legislature at \$220,000 a year for forty years—I must therefore add that sum to the balance in our favor." Remember, he proposes to make this deduction from the \$804,000 raised under present advalorem, and you have another sample of the way in which this scheme is "fairly placed before the people." And yet we find the "once Liberal Chronicle" under strange inspiration in full cry "For the Glory and for the elevation of character" it sees? O, tempora! O, mores!

FARMER.

Lower Horton, Dec. 1864.

Extracts.

THE DAVENPORT BROTHERS.

The performers who are exciting the most attention just now are the young men from America, who go by the name of the "Davenport Brothers." They lay claim to "preternatural" powers, and have been chiefly brought into public notice by Mr. Boucicault. That undoubtedly clever dramatist and actor has certainly got them putted into notoriety, but, at the same time, he has done them an injury. No one can believe that possessors of preternatural powers would go to Mr. Boucicault to be "papered" and "managed"; and Mr. Boucicault, after getting out of temper himself because of this wide-spread scepticism, has succeeded in quarrelling with the editor of the *T. Aes*. The great journal has shown its anger in a most undignified paragraph; and, altogether, the "Davenport Brothers" are getting the fullest share of agreeable and disagreeable publicity.

Their performance is a clever variation of an old juggling trick that has been popular for many years in all parts of the world. They have a dark, mysterious, oaken cabinet—not unlike a wardrobe—with three doors in front, each one fastened with a little latch inside. This cabinet stands upon half-a-dozen Windsor chairs, the legs of which are placed in tombles. Inside the cabinet is a seat running all round the sides, in which are several small holes. High up, near the top of the centre door is a small-diamond-shaped opening, with a little curtain of black velvet. The two brothers, who are short, spare young men, about twenty three years of age, enter this cabinet, and seat themselves on the seats at each end so that they face each other. A tambourine, a guitar, a fiddle, a bell, a speaking trumpet and a large heavy trumpet, or bludgeon, are placed on the floor of the cabinet between them. The hands and the feet of the young men are then securely bound together, and to the seats of the cabinet, by any two members of the company, and the doors are closed and bolted. The moment the doors are closed, what are called the "manifestations" begin. Noises, more or less musical, are heard within the cabinet, the heavy trumpet, weighing at least 8 lbs., is hurled through the opening in the centre door far into the middle of the room, all the instruments are played upon at once three or four hands appear at the opening, sometimes a long white arm is protruded. The noises then suddenly cease, the doors are thrown open by the two members of the company, deputed to see fair play on the part of the audience, and the two young men are discovered seated and tied, without having apparently disturbed a knot, cut a rope, or moved a muscle. So perfect are these Davenport Brothers in this trick, which they have practised for at least fourteen years, that they can do all this without any apparent aid outside or inside the cabinet, while the cords are sealed with private seals, to prove that the knots have not been tampered with, and while their hands are filled with flour. They vary the trick by getting their coats on and off their backs without apparently moving the ropes, and perform other singular variations.

This is the performance—a rather dull one for a large aud-

ience though interesting enough for a party of thirty or forty—which is now the talk of the town. The young men perform more in private than in public for their cabinet can be taken to pieces and built up in any room in half-an-hour. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people believe that the effects produced are produced by some spiritual influence, and the Brothers and their managers favour this supposition, by stating that they are ignorant of the power that ties and unties them. Half the professional conjurers in London have been stimulated by the offers of rewards or the desire for notoriety, to endeavour to expose the trick, but no satisfactory exposure, has as yet taken place. Professor Anderson, a second-rate conjurer, lately issued invitations to witness an exposure of the preternatural pretensions of the Davenport, and at least seven hundred persons attended, one half of whom were persons eminent in literature, science, and art. Something like the rope trick performed by the Davenports was done very badly by Mr. Anderson's assistants but no attempt was made to explain it. All that this noble audience learnt was that a man can get out of a rope without aid from spirits; and they appeared to be highly gratified at the discovery. This can hardly be regarded as a credit to the nineteenth century and its intelligence.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT OF HALIFAX.

ARRIVED.

S. S. Canada Boston, Mails etc.—to S. Cunard & Co; Packet Barque Halifax, O'Brien, Boston 3 days, genl. cargo—to Lawson Harrington & Co.
 Monday, Dec. 26.
 Steamer El Almirante, Montreal, bound to Havana; Brigs, H. Gilbert, New York, —to J. & R. B. Scton; Margaret, Jamaica—to N. L. & J. T. West; Schrs, Flying Cloud, Smith, Gloucester, Mass.; Centre Point, Goodwin, Gloucester, Mass.
 Tuesday, Dec. 27.
 Schrs, Maderia, Nugent, New York, flour—to Young & Hart; Julia, Fenton, Boston, genl. cargo—to Lawson Harrington & Co; Hope, Carrole, New York, flour—to Jas. Cochran & Son; Bright Ellen, Hilton, Havanna,—to Osley & Co.
 Wednesday, Dec. 28.
 Brig, Golden Rule, Patterson, Porto Rico,—to W. P. West; John Nelson, New York,—to J. & R. B. Scton.
 Thursday, Dec. 29.
 Schr, John Milson, Nelson, New York, flour—to J. & R. B. Scton; Et auer, Francoia, Snow, Boston,—to J. F. Phelan.
 Friday, Dec. 30.
 Schr, Sarah, Picton—to Master; Susan, Lang, Boston; Daring, O'Brien, from a cruise eastward; Annie, Griève, Sydney; Brig, Mary J. Williams, returned from sea.

PORT OF HALIFAX.

CLEARED.

Steamers Canada, Hoekley, Liverpool, mails etc.—by S. Cunard & Co; Delta, Gullford, St. John Nfld,—by S. Cunard & Co; Brigs, Chieftain (new 126 tons) Conod B. W. Indies, fish etc.—by Salter & Twining; Mary G. Williams, Hunt, Staves and Shooks—by G. Eisenhan; Queen of the North, Campbell, Portland, fish etc.—by W. Hare and others; Emily Jane, Gammon, Jamaica, fish etc.—by N. L. & J. T. West; Ocean Star, (new 200 tons) Jenkins, Bermuda, 20 head cattle, 50 sheep, 300 head poultry etc.—by G. C. Harvey and others; Kate, Johnson, Kington Ja. fish etc.—by G. Bryoner; Schr, Snow Squall, Chasson, Margerote C. B. genl. cargo—by W. G. Taylor and others; Barque Penelope, Clay, Liverpool G. B.
 Tuesday, Dec. 27.
 Schrs, Caroline, Brown, Barter Poutle, genl. cargo—by Master; Conservative, Melnaec, Margerec C. B.—by S. F. Buss & Co; Squando, Sullivan, Geystonugh, genl. cargo—by B. Wier & Co, and others; Wild Wiv, Hemeon, Liverpool, genl. cargo—by Jennett & Saylor.
 Wednesday, Dec. 28.
 Schrs, Wm. Stairs, Hom, Jamaica—by W. Fryer & Sons; Agenoria, Dickson, Lingan,—by W. M. Harrington & Co; Luperc, Swin, Shelborne—by Master; Telegraph, Shaw, New York—by J. A. Moren and others.
 Thursday, Dec. 29.
 Brig, Gentle Annie, Pitts, Port Medway, ballast—by B. Wier & Co; Schr, Franklin, Myers, Tangier, genl. cargo—by W. Barron.

Local and other Items.

The Recorder, taxes us with mentioning Mr. Uniacke as a gentleman able to "see his country" at a time of perplexity. We must bear the penalty of our carelessness, albeit the expression should have been printed "serve his country," which Mr. Uniacke is fully competent of doing. We should much like to see men of his stamp taking a more active part in politics than has of late years been the case; the tone of the House of Assembly would not be lowered.

The *Colonial Standard* publishes the following very original views regarding a general election in connection with Federation: "the question of confederation would be altogether lost sight of amid the multiplicity of subjects which would rise up in the event of a general election, * * the votes given by the people at the polls would not, in any sense, represent their views on this great subject. * * A general election would bring up a host of other questions which would completely overshadow that of Confederation." Upon reading these passages, we are forcibly reminded of the man who, while being escorted to the gallows upon a rainy morning, begged for an umbrella lest he should possibly take cold. But the following passage may explain the secret of the *Standards'* anxiety: "There is nothing more certain than that a general election, in which the whole policy of the government was put in issue would be the very worst test that could be adopted to obtain an indication of the views of the people on the Confederation scheme." Quite true. But the whole policy of the Government (Annapolis Railway, and Education Act, of course included) will be laid bare soon enough; meanwhile, let the Representatives of the people go to their constituents on the one issue of Confederation. This question once explained to the people at the polls, (by those for and against the scheme) would, we venture to think "overshadow" all other questions ever discussed in this Province. While an attempt is being made to force a camel down our throats, we are not likely to make wry faces at the approach of a goat.

Speaking of Mr. Welles, the Secretary of the Navy's report, the *New York Herald* makes the following remarks:—Among the achievements of our navy is the alleged enforcement of the blockade of three thousand miles of sea coast. The Secretary glances in this connection at the commercial morality of English merchants, and very justly classifies their present efforts in the blockade business with their efforts in the Chinese opium trade. He glances also at the ports of Halifax, Bermuda and Nassau, as "ports that will always be in sympathy with the enemies of this country," and in that phrase gives the real reason why they ought to be ours.

THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY.—Monday the 26th inst, was observed as a general holiday, and the weather proving unpropitious, was duller than such days usually are in Halifax. A few drunkards disturbed the gloomy tranquility of the main streets. We have no doubt, however, that our fellow citizens enjoyed themselves in their own way at home, and we must hope for finer weather on New Year's day.

We are informed that his Excellency the Lieut. Governor is taking steps in the matter of representing this Province in the Dublin exhibition next year. We hope Nova Scotia will even surpass on this occasion her efforts in 1862.

The entertainments given in Temperance Hall by the Amateurs of the 17th Regiment during the past week were most successful. The performance indeed was the best of its kind that we have ever seen in Halifax. The dramatised Christmas Carol was remarkably clever, and the manner in which Sergt. Smith performed Scrooge's part, deserved the applause which it received. The music from *Macbeth* is already well known to our citizens, as also the excellent manner in which it is rendered by the band of the 17th. It was really refreshing to see a couple of *Clowns* and *Pantaloon* on the stage. They played their merry quips and tricks with great agility, and the house was convulsed with laughter. We must also congratulate the 17th Regiment on the possession of a poet and composer. The "Mayflower," words by Sergeant Instructor J. E. Smith, and Music by Drum-Major Gurney, reflects the greatest possible credit upon both writer and composer. The music is excessively pretty, and the words are amongst the best that we have seen, addressed to the Natural beauties of Nova Scotia. We quote the two verses which please us most:—

North the lee of rubby rocks
 Snowy fragments linger,
 Shedding tears that *Phabus* mocks
 With his fiery fingers;
 Tears that act as shivering show'rs,
 Beams that cherish sweet *Mayflowers*,
 Till each little blue bell
 Breaks in beauty o'er the dell.

When the rind's muddy line
 Grains the snow like marble,—
 When amid the spruce and pine
 Merry Robins warble,—
 When the snow's death-tear is shed,
 When the *Mayflower*'s rears her head,
 Thy bells her triumph ring,—
 "Winter's past, Huzza for spring."

The Bishop and his family were upset from a sleigh in Pleasant Street on Monday afternoon. Fortunately none of the party were injured.

The press of opinion as to the terms of Union is not equal, while it is the *Colonist*—*Chronicles* and *America*. Happ last lie together.

Maximilian is He must be his better. Perhaps

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The Enquire into South Car The New Y.

The press of Victoria, Vancouver's Island, is divided in opinion as to the advisability of the Union. Among the supporters of Union is the *Coloanist*, one of the oldest established journals, while it is opposed by the *Chronicle*, an energetic rival of the *Coloanist*.—*Journal*. Is it possible! Why there must be *Chronicles* and *Coloanists* squabbling all over British North America. Happy Halifax, whose *Chronicle* and *Coloanist* at last lie together in unity.

Maximilian is taking liberties with British rights at Honduras. He must be looked after. *Sun*. Certainly! The sooner the better. Perhaps the *Sun* will go and do so.

The *Reporter* informs us that the superb sleighing which has converted our country into a railroad during the past week or ten days, has been completely spoiled by recent rains. If railroads are so easily to be destroyed, it were well to cease constructing them.

The *Pictou Standard* calls the *Presbyterian Witness* "the religious, so called, bifurcated organ of bigotry, superstition and intolerance." Hard but true.—*Morning Journal*. The excessive uncharitableness of the remarks of the *Pictou Standard* seem to please the *Morning Journal* which endorses them. Perhaps, however, the *Journal* is taken in by the long words of the passage above quoted. Bifurcated is a pretty word, but does not mean divided into three prongs, as the *Pictou Standard* would lead us to suppose. If the *Journal* must quote rampant passages from country papers, let it give a preference to those which are written in good English.

Summary of the Telegraphic News of the Week.

The latest despatch from Nashville locates Gen. Thomas' Head Quarters at Rutherford Hill, 8 miles this side of Columbia, the enemy retreated without firing a shot. The rebel force was at Palaski on the 22nd. Still moving South.

At least one third of Hood's army are without arms. Everything which impeded their flight having been dispensed with. Forrest effected a junction with Hood on Tuesday. The loss of the rebels during this campaign in Tennessee is estimated at 17,000 men, 51 pieces of artillery, and 18 General officers killed. Gen. Davidson's raiding party from Baton Rouge is reported by the Richmond Whig to have passed through Augusta Perry, Miss., on the 9th, on their way to Mobile.

The Hon. J. M. Wood, of Portland, formerly member of Congress, and prominent in Railway enterprises, died at the Riverside House, Boston, on the morning of the 24th inst. The fire in Beekman Street, in New York, on the night of the 23rd inst., destroyed property to the amount of \$150,000. The Confederate General Mosby is again reported killed.

General Davidson who left Baton Rouge on the 17th, has reached Pensacola all safe, losing only about 60 men on the trip. He destroyed an immense amount of Confederate supplies and a number of miles of railroad track. He met with very little opposition.

Late Richmond papers state that a portion of Sheridan's army estimated at 5,000, had crossed the Blue Ridge at Chester Gap and occupied Madison Court House. Their destination being Gordonsville.

Another Federal force was marching on Weldon. These papers confess that Richmond is in serious danger of being cut off from all its railroad and telegraph communication.

A despatch from the Secretary of War, announces that Gen. Sherman entered Savannah on the 22nd, capturing 8000 prisoners, 150 guns, 23,000 bales of cotton, 3 steamers, &c.

The rebel General Hardee escaped with his Infantry and Light Artillery, on the afternoon and night of the 20th, first destroying the rebel iron-clads and Navy-yard.

Business generally suspended in New York on the 26th inst. No regular gold board. Parties in the streets offered to sell at 210, which was refused.

Hood has been again defeated in Tennessee, losing 15 guns, all his pontoon equipage, and nearly eight hundred prisoners.

The following is the official announcement from Sherman.—Savannah, Ga., Dec. 22nd, to His Excellency President Lincoln, I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the City of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton. Signed N. T. Sherman, Major General.

Governor Watts of Alabama has issued a proclamation calling out the Militia of that State.

He says two strong Federal columns were within twenty miles of Mobile and rapidly approaching the City.

The Richmond Enquirer of Saturday says editorially:—"The march of Sherman through the heart of Georgia has been accomplished, and he has been allowed to establish his communications with the naval forces without any other loss than that of stragglers and the wear and tear of an army on a long expedition. The Enquirer anticipates that Sherman will at once march into South Carolina.

The New York Herald correspondent says a Federal force

from Newburn has successfully penetrated into the interior of North Carolina.

General Grant telegraphs to the War Department at Washington the following extract from the Richmond papers of the 27th inst.

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 25th. "The enemy's fleet of over fifty vessels, including two monitors, several armored vessels and many heavily armed frigates and sloops of war, made a furious attack on Fort Fisher about 1 o'clock on Saturday, P. M., and kept up an average fire of 30 shots per minute until night. Our loss is 23 wounded. The attack was renewed on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, and has been very furious and continuous. The enemy under cover of the heavy fire, landed about two brigades, two and a half miles above Fort Fisher. They were immediately engaged by a smaller force. The enemy held the ground at night.

It is reported that Sherman is moving a force up the Savannah River to capture Augusta.

The bombardment of Fort Fisher continued furiously.

An old vessel loaded with three hundred tons of gunpowder was run in close to Fort Fisher and fired with slow match; explosion was awful but its effects not known. For fifty miles along the coast the shock was thought to be an earthquake.

At a large open air-meeting of Conservatives at Manchester, resolutions were adopted, strongly opposing recognition of the Slave-holding Confederacy.

Nothing later from Wilmington.

Hood, with the shattered fragments of his army, is reported as having crossed the river at Florence, leaving Tennessee free of hostile invaders.

Gen. Davidson's expedition has returned to Baton Rouge. The force travelled one hundred miles in 15 days, burned 15 bridges and many miles of railroad, and destroyed enormous quantities of property.

Richmond papers state that Saltville, in South Western Virginia, is in Federal possession.

The Saltworks located there have supplied rebeldom with salt, and their capture is acknowledged as a serious disaster.

Kilpatrick with a force of Cavalry, has left Savannah for the purpose of liberating Federal prisoners held in the interior of Georgia.

Admiral Porter has made an official report of his attack on Wilmington. The powder ship exploded near the walls of Fort Fisher, at 2 o'clock, Saturday morning, but failed in the anticipated effect. The attack commenced shortly before noon. The firing of the fleet was magnificent. The fire of the Fort was speedily silenced, and the enemy driven to the bomb proofs. Two magazines were blown up, and several buildings set on fire.

During the heaviest of the bombardment 115 shots per minute were fired. The enemy was silenced so quickly that no one was injured on board the fleet from their guns.

Six 100 Parrott guns in the fleet exploded, killing and wounding 34 officers and men.

An infantry force of 2000 men was landed, but Gen. Weitzel found it impracticable to storm the fort, and the force was re-embarked, and will return to Fortress Monroe.

The naval attack will be resumed.

Gen. Burbridge officially reports the destruction of the Confederate salt and lead works. He defeated the Confederates in various fights, captured 20 cannon, broke up railroads, and destroyed a vast quantity of stores.

THE DOUBLE HOUSE.

(Continued).

"Hide me—any where; let nobody find me. Mrs. Rivers, they hoot at me down the street. They say—oh, I dare not think what they say and I dare not tell him. Perhaps—oh, horror!—perhaps he thinks so too."

Long shudders possessed her, it was sometime before she gained the slightest composure. It was not difficult for me to guess the cause of her anguish.

"Never mind their tongues Mrs. Merchiston, they will cease if let alone. Only live in peace and patience. Hope in God still."

"I can't," she said with a wild look that I had not before seen.

"How should I hope in Him? He has forsaken me; why should I live any longer? Oh! save me, save me! Let me go away from here from my husband. I must go, their cruel tongues will kill me."

"You shall," I cried with a sudden idea, as suddenly converted into a resolution: "you shall and I will help you."

Whereupon I explained all to her; somewhat hastily, for I was afraid of Mr. Rivers coming home; he who had just a man's notion of marital authority and the wickedness of conjugal rebellion. But this was a case in which I set even him at defiance—or rather I trusted to my own influence to convince him that acting from my conscience solely I acted right.

Mark me, children I would have a woman submit to any lawful authority even unjustly and cruelly exercised so long as the misery does not ruin her soul. When the torment goes her this far—when like Job's wife, the devil tempts her to "curse God and die," then I hold, all duty ceases, except to her Maker and herself the creature which He made; let her save her own soul and flee!

My counsel to Mrs. Merchiston was this: at once—openly if she could, secretly if that was impossible to leave her husband, absolutely

