

the class of men that frequented the House of Commons. Tell me, did ever C. J. Fox deliver a speech which caused the sensation as did that of Edmund Burke, on the impetuosity of the war in Hastings?—In the gallery, "I say so," says Mr. Mackenzie, "were in a state of uncontrollable emotion. Handkerchiefs were pulled out; smelling bottles handed round; hysterical sobs and screams were heard; and Mr. Sheridan was present on this great occasion, he would have had an excellent demonstration of Burke's superior talents for securing attention. Even Mackenzie, who is not over partial to Burke's powers of oratory, is forced to admit that, in an aptitude of comprehension and richness of imagination, superior to every other orator, ancient or modern, Sheridan must ever be admired for his rhetorical and witty sallies. Fox for vehement and impassioned declamation; Pitt for sonorous rhetoric, cool, cautious and dignified speaking; Canning for Ciceroan sentences; Grattan for sarcastic, yet melodious phrases, brilliant and Kibernian eloquence; O'Connell for vigorous and cutting attacks; Shiel for classic declamation and enthusiastic appeal; and Curran for his polished oratory; and yet, pre-eminent among all these, ranks Sir Edward Burke. And were I to point to the most remarkable name that adorned the temple of modern England, the most magnificent mind of Ireland, I would point, as to the immortal author of "Sublime and Beautiful," Ireland's glory, Ireland, the land of oppression and injustice, the land of genius and talent, of orators and poets, of soldiers and generals, of gallant resistance to tyranny and seditious submission to usurped authority.—Ireland have but just and equitable privileges, and she will again struggle with a host of Burkes, Grattans, Floods, Shields, Punks, O'Connells, Sheridan, Canning and Curran.

J. H. FLETCHER.
In absence of Sec'y,
Orwell Mills, 23d March, 1865.
P. S.—Papers favorable please copy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir—A writer, signing himself "An Antislavery," has a slight misapprehension in the last Herald, where some disparaging allusions are made to writers recently published in the Examiner. This writer, however, he may, would prove his statements when he writes again for the press, he would produce some tangible evidence in the public eye. People now-a-days are very apt to smile contemptuously at writers who make broad assertions, unsupported by a particle of proof. When "An Antislavery" will condescend to state up the soundness of his letters, he shall receive due notice from

COMMON SENSE.
March 27, 1865.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, April 3, 1865.

DEBATE ON CONFEDERATION.

The debate on Confederation, which occupied the attention of the House of Assembly every night for a week, was brought to a conclusion on Friday night. The result is just as every one expected—there was a large majority opposed to the measure—23 to 5. Two or three of the majority expressed themselves as not opposed to a Union of the Provinces on the Federal plan, but they objected to the terms proposed at the Quebec Convention, and they voted against the whole scheme on account of those terms.

We have neither space nor time to offer our readers any editorial comments on the debate. We have been desirous to give our readers as full a report of the debates and proceedings of both Houses of the Legislature as our columns would enable us to do, and this prevents us from inserting much other matter that would be interesting. We shall, however, as soon as the Legislature is prorogued have ample time and space to refer to the arguments advanced in the debate on both sides of the question of Confederation; and we shall endeavor to prove that, although this Island has, so far, pronounced against it, the arguments in opposition are, for the most part, futile, and essentially the plan of Confederation cannot fail to become acceptable to a large majority of the people of the British Province.

The following are the resolutions which were put to the vote on Friday night:—

Moved by the Hon. Colonial Secretary:

1. Resolved, That the best interests, and present and future prosperity of British North America, would be promoted by a Federal Union, under the Crown of Great Britain, providing such Union could be effected, on principles just to the several Provinces and Colonies.

2. Resolved, That the existence of immense Military and Naval forces in the neighboring Republic, renders it especially incumbent on the people of British North America to take the most efficient precautionary measures by which their independence against Foreign aggression may be secured.

3. Resolved, That a Union, such as in times of extraordinary danger would place the Militia, the Revenues, and the Resources of the several Provinces, at the disposal of a General Parliament, is necessary, in order to maintain the independence of British North America against foreign aggression, and to perpetuate our connection with the Mother Country.

4. Resolved, That a Federal Union of British North America, based upon the Resolutions adopted at the Conference of Delegates from the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, held at the City of Quebec, 10th October, 1864, as the basis of a proposed Confederation of those Provinces and Colonies, would, among other advantages, promote the development of the Trade and Manufacturing capabilities of these Provinces and Colonies, and advance the General Prosperity, by inducing the substitution of a Customs Tariff, uniform and common to the Confederation, in lieu of the various Tariffs now in force in the several Provinces and Colonies.

5. Resolved, That this House disapproves to the recommendations of the Quebec Convention, and on the part of Prince Edward Island emphatically declares a Union with Great Britain, the powerful aid of that great country will continue as heretofore to be extended to us, in common with the other North American Dependencies of the British Crown.

6. Resolved, That this House disapproves to the recommendations of the Quebec Convention, and on the part of Prince Edward Island emphatically declares a Union with Great Britain, the powerful aid of that great country will continue as heretofore to be extended to us, in common with the other North American Dependencies of the British Crown.

7. Resolved, That this House, believing it is only by mutual concessions and compromises the several British North American Provinces and Colonies can ever agree upon those principles which shall form the basis of a Union, orders that the report of the Conference of Delegates from these several Provinces and Colonies held at Quebec in October last, be published throughout this Colony for the deliberate consideration of the people, on whom will devolve the acceptance or rejection of the proposed Union.

8. Resolved, That until the larger Maritime Provinces and Canada shall have mutually agreed upon terms of Union, it is inexpedient that the People of Prince Edward Island should be called upon to decide on the question.

9. Resolved, That in case the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada, should at any time mutually agree upon the basis of a Union, the question be then forthwith submitted to the decision of the People of this Island.

1. Resolved, That Prince Edward Island, being entirely dependent on its Agriculture and Fisheries, has nothing to export for which Canada can furnish a market. That while such is, and ever must be the relative commercial position of this Island and Canada, the products of our soil and Fisheries find in the extensive markets of our parent country, the United States and the West Indies, ready and profitable customers. The proposed Union, while admitting the produce and manufactures of Canada into this Island free, would by assimilation of taxes enormously increase the duty to which those of Great Britain and the United States are at present subject, thereby compelling this Island to take a large portion of its imports from Canada, making payment therefor in money instead of procuring them from countries which would receive our produce in exchange,—an arrangement so inconsistent with the fundamental principles of commerce must greatly curtail our commercial intercourse with the United States, and would, in the opinion of this House, materially diminish our Exports to that country, and prove most injurious to the agricultural and commercial interests of this Island.

2. That if the relative circumstances of Canada and this Island rendered a Union practicable, the evident injustice of the terms agreed to by the Quebec Convention would prevent their being ratified by the Legislature of this Island. Without alluding to all, it is proper to notice some of the objectionable features of the Report. Without admitting the principle of Representation according to Population, under all circumstances to be sound, it is, in the opinion of this House, particularly objectionable as applied to this Island in connection with Canada, taking into consideration that the number of our inhabitants is and must continue comparatively small, owing to the fact that we have no Crown Lands, mines, minerals, or other resources sufficient to induce immigrants to settle here, and that we never can expect to become to any extent a manufacturing people in consequence of our navigation being closed for nearly half the year, and all trade and communication with other countries stopped. Under this principle, the City of Montreal alone would, at the present time, have a representation greater than the whole Province of Prince Edward Island, and under the provisions of the Convention which regulates the mode of re-adjusting the relative representation of the various Provinces at each decennial census, looking at the rapid increase of the Population of Upper and Lower Canada heretofore,—particularly the former,—and the certainty of a still greater increase therein in the future, over that of the population of this Island, it follows as a certain and inevitable consequence, if a Federation of the Provinces were consummated upon the basis of the said Convention, that the number of our Representatives would, in the course of a comparatively short number of years, be diminished to a still smaller number than that allotted at the outset to us.

3. That the old Imperial error in granting all the lands in large tracts to absentees, which deprives this Island of the Revenue drawn by the sister Colonies from these sources, our insular position and numerous harbors, furnishing cheap and convenient water communication which render expensive Public Works here unnecessary, the Revenue to be drawn by the proposed Federal Government from this Island, and expended among the people of Canada and the other Colonies in constructing Railways and other Public Works, thereby creating a trade which would build up cities and enhance the value of property in various localities, these advantages in which this Island so completely enjoys a very small participation. Our complete isolation during five months of the year, when ice interrupts our trade and communication with the Mainland, and during which period the Island could derive no possible benefit from the Railroads and other Public Works which they would be equally with the people of those Colonies taxed to construct, these and many other considerations, but which seem to have been entirely ignored, ought, in the opinion of this House, to have produced an offer of a financial arrangement for this Island very different in its terms from that contained in the Report of the Convention.

4. That while this House recognizes the duty of this Colony to use every means, to the extent of its limited resources, to defend its inhabitants from foreign invasion, it cannot recognize the necessity of uniting in a Confederation with Canada for the purpose of defense upon terms which, in other respects, are, in the opinion of this House, so unfair to the people of Prince Edward Island; that sacrificing our commercial and financial interests for the sake of securing the co-operation of Canada in a military point of view, feeling assured that so long as we remain a loyal and attached Colony of Great Britain, the powerful aid of that great country will continue as heretofore to be extended to us, in common with the other North American Dependencies of the British Crown.

5. That the above amendment was carried on the following division:
For the amendment, and against Confederation:—Hons. J. C. Pope, G. Coles, J. Longworth, A. Laird, D. Kaye, F. Kelly, D. Davies, J. Hendry, E. Thompson, J. Varnum, D. Beaton, Messrs. Ramsay, Montgomery, Haslam, J. You, Dumeau, Becken, Howat, Conroy, Howland, Walker, Sinclair, Sutherland—23.
Against the amendment—Hons. Messrs. Colvill, Confederation with Canada for the purpose of defense upon terms which, in other respects, are, in the opinion of this House, so unfair to the people of Prince Edward Island; that sacrificing our commercial and financial interests for the sake of securing the co-operation of Canada in a military point of view, feeling assured that so long as we remain a loyal and attached Colony of Great Britain, the powerful aid of that great country will continue as heretofore to be extended to us, in common with the other North American Dependencies of the British Crown.

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NEW BRUNSWICK.

Mr. TILLEY's Government in this Province have resigned their places, in consequence of their late defeat at the hustings. Mr. Hatheway, late Commissioner of Public Works, and one of the leading opponents of Confederation, has been entrusted with the formation of a new Government; but—though there was much surmising up to the departure of the last Mail—there was no authentic information as to the personnel of the new Cabinet.

NOVA SCOTIA.

In this Province the project of Confederation on the principles of the Quebec Convention, has, by a formal vote in the Legislature, been pronounced "impracticable" for the present. This was to be expected. The unwise decision of the electors of New Brunswick has rendered it "impracticable" in all the Maritime Provinces. When the New Brunswickers come, however, to see the error of their decision, and demand a reversal of it in the Legislature, then the project will cease to be "impracticable." In the mean while the Government of Nova Scotia recommend a reconsideration of the proposal for a Legislative Union of the Lower Provinces, which the several Colonial Parliaments had under consideration last Session. The thing is absurd. A Legislative Union is ten times more objectionable than a Federal one.

MISSION FROM CANADA TO ENGLAND.—The Delegation from Canada to England, to confer with the British Government on the questions of Confederation and Colonial Defences generally, are now on their way to the Mother Country. As their Mission will, to a very great extent, effect the Lower Provinces, we shall look very anxiously for the result of it. The Delegates are, the Hon. Mr. Carter, Attorney General of Lower Canada; Hon. Mr. Gall, Finance Minister; and the Hon. Mr. McDougall, Provincial Secretary. The Honorable Mr. McDonald, Attorney General for Upper Canada, was also named as one of the Delegates; but it was thought that his impaired health would not enable him to undertake the voyage.

A CANADIAN OPINION ON THE PRESENT ASPECT OF CONFEDERATION.

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THE LONDON TIMES ON CONFEDERATION. The following important article from the London Times of the 7th inst. ought to convince any person that the great organ of index of English public opinion is not only not opposed to a Confederation of the American Colonies, but that it now, as it has long been, a strenuous advocate of the measure.

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SONNET ON SPRING.

Spring comes in beauty with her vernal wand,
A goddess full of cheerfulness and song—
There's not a tree that lives upon the land,
But opens its eyelids as she glides along.
The aged oak that lifts its arms so strong,
By you, my sister, lifts its arms so strong,
The sober yew, half suffocated among
Its twinings ivy,—hears her joyful call:
While groves and glades in the waterfall,
In haste re-dress in pink and lovely green,
And flowers break forth like purple stars and all
Is fresh and fair, and sunny and serene.
This is the resurrection of sweet things,
She o'er the earth her bounteous beauty flings!

THE LITTLE HAT.

This dear little hat and it hangs there still,
And its voice of the past bids the heartstrings thrill.
For it seems like a shadow of days long ago,
Of the bright one gone who that hat once wore.
Tis a dear little hat, for each simple brim
Tells the story of its plaitings those fingers have
play'd;
And many a wretch for its crown has been twain'd,
To the graceful tangle of its beautiful main.

Ye! There silent it hangs, with its curling front
Still playfully rolled, as has been its wont;
And the golden tangle of its beautiful main,
Have carried their last cluster long ago.
Aye the hat is the same, but it shades no more,
Those little blue eyes, in days of yore;
And the smile, that, danc'd on that brow,
Cannot light up our hearts 'til men's eyes now.
Sad memories they are! O'er their quivering
strings,
Each breath of the by-gone a tremor flings;
And ye would I might have woven again,
In memory are wreathed with a thrill of pain.

Then recall not the past—though the dimpled hand
May never again clasp the braided strand,
Though the breeze no longer may hear the tone
Of the ringing laughter of childhood's own:
Oh! think of him now with a glittering crown,
On his heavenly forehead resting down,
While his fingers stray o'er the golden wire,
That binds with her voice 'mid the cherub choir.

Aye, I see her now, with a holy light
Upon her brow, with radiance bright,
And I hear the tones which to heaven have birth,
Oh! call her not back to this saddened earth.

Lord Granville, one of the greatest of England's great men, said last month in the House of Lords:—"What ought to make us still more proud of the good Government which must undoubtedly have prevailed among us, is to find that our North American Colonies, in expressing their wish to continue their connection with this country, and in adopting the new institutions they have been considering with such unanimity in possession of their own minds, have shown a wisdom, a foresight, and a sagacity, which has not been equalled in any other country, and which has brought us into closer connection with them, and has made us more proud of the good Government which must undoubtedly have prevailed among us, is to find that our North American Colonies, in expressing their wish to continue their connection with this country, and in adopting the new institutions they have been considering with such unanimity in possession of their own minds, have shown a wisdom, a foresight, and a sagacity, which has 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