LATEST FROM THE STATES.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC — A MOVEMENT BEGUN, BUT STOPPED BY THE RAIN — THE FORTIFICATIONS AROUND PETERSBURG.

From an interesting letter from Grant's army, dated Nov. 19, in the New York *Commercial*, we select the following:—

"A movement of the army has at last begun. Yesterday, while among the Ninth corps, on our extreme left, I learned that orders had been issued to prepare eight days' rations, with one hundred rounds of ammunition, and be ready to march at any moment. The artillery of that corps, which is again under Burnside, set out again on the march, and by sunset encamped about eight miles nearer City Point, on the line of the railroad. The infantry followed shortly afterwards and reaching Hancock's Station, about ten miles hence. I learned that similar orders were issued in the Second and part of the Fifth corps, the men anticipating a general pulling of stakes for some time.

Just as ill luck would have it, however, it began to rain about 8 o'clock in the evening. The highways are simply dirt roads, not macadamised as in the Valley, so that it would seem impossible for artillery to move, except towards the centre of our planet. The line of march yesterday was towards the Appomattox, which they would probably strike two or three miles below Petersburg, if the design were to cross over to Gen. Butler's department.

Few persons probably have an accurate idea of the nature and strength of our works hereabouts. Without going into particulars, it will not be treasonable to state that they consist of three lines of defences. The first extends around the garrison here, and consists of a breastwork and deep ditch, aided by the railroad cutting and a deep ravine. The second in the course of construction, extends from the Appomattox, at a point two and a half miles higher up, to the James, below Fort Pohattan, been probably fifteen miles long, and supported by forts on the principal heights, on which artillery is mounted. The third, (along our front,) begins on the Appomattox, about one mile below Petersburg, (in the valley,) and passes along, at one place barely two thirds of a mile from that place, and six hundred yards from the rebel lines. Along this line of well nigh twenty miles, as many forts or batteries have been erected. These are more or less large and heavy, having embrasures for from four to sixteen guns. Some of them cover two acres, and have parapets ten feet high, and ditches as many feet broad and deep, with screws and draw-bridges.

The forts are connected, except in swamps, by breastworks of various heights and degrees of strength. In front of these is a line of sharpened stakes driven into the ground, with points projecting towards Petersburg. In places the trees have been cut down to form an *abattis*. Beyond these obstructions our picket lines extend usually from a quarter to half a mile distant.

By leaving the forts well garrisoned it will be seen that this line is now so strong that Grant can hurl the main body of his force against any part of the rebel lines he may select; while it is impossible to flank him or cut his communications with any force short of the whole rebel army, which would naturally bring it just where *we* want it.

One who has not been here can form no idea of the desolation, the dreariness of the scene, after the country thus wasted has been abandoned by our troops. On that series of lateral or cross roads, you see a man on foot here, or on horseback there, wandering apparently, 'in the field,' like Joseph, that has extension in every direction without limit, excepting the dark lines of woods in the distance. The house which presents itself now and then is certain to be occupied by a group of Union officers, or, as general's headquarters, perhaps by a band of music engaged in piping where others do not dance. Gray lines of earthworks, gray lines of road, trains of army waggons, everything torn up, smashed, destroyed or going to destruction, no women, no children, no cattle lowing or friendly dogs barking, no chanticleer sounds in the morning.

Two lines of telegraph connect Gen. Grant's headquarters here with the front. Lines also connect with Gen. Butler's department. These commanders have fast steamers for their own accommodation, always ready to leave at any moment. The Sanitary Commission have a depot well stocked near the extreme left. The men all speak in high terms of the good done by such noble institutions as the Christian and Sanitary Commissions."

DISASTROUS FIGHT WITH MOSBY'S GUERILLAS.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer's* correspondent at Harper's Ferry sends the following:—

"In my last despatch I mentioned the fact that a party of guerillas made an attack on a cavalry escort near Winchester, a few days since. For the purpose, if possible, of intercepting and capturing the attacking party, Capt. Brasher's Independent Scouts, attached to General Crook's scouting command, started through London county on Friday last. The command were in the saddle all day and night, and finally reached Cabletown, on the Shenandoah River, about sixteen miles from Harper's Ferry.

"The next morning, Capt. Brasher captured two of Mosby's men, and received information from them that a small party from the guerilla chieftain's outlaws were about two miles from Cabletown. Captain Brasher started with two of his men on a reconnoitering expedition, and discovered between thirty or forty of the enemy. He quickly returned to his main body, consisting of sixty-two men, and proceeded at once to meet them. As soon as the enemy were in sight, Capt. Brasher drew up his men in line and charged them.

"The rebels fell back until the rear of Capt. Brasher's command had passed a cross-road, when Mosby, with over two hundred men, made a sudden dash on both sides of the road, and a sharp encounter ensued. The union scouts were confined at this time in a narrow lane, without much chance to manouvre, and were consequently surrounded and subjected to a deadly fire. Twenty-two of Brasher's command were killed on the spot; among the number was Lieut. Cole. Eight were wounded, and the balance, thirty-two in number, were captured. Some few of the captured have since made their escape."

Mosby has written a letter to Sheridan announcing the execution of seven Union prisoners in retaliation, and announcing his intention to continue if any of his men are executed.

THE RAID ON ROUSE'S POINT.

Our correspondent at St. Albans, Vt., writes as follows, under date of Nov. 22:

"The latest intelligence from the frontier confirms the statement made in my letter of yesterday. It seems that a party of Montreal rebel scouts approached the village of Upper Champlain (Rouse's Point) and fired upon the pickets there. Immediately upon the alarm being given from Fort Montgomery, the citizens of both places turned out *en masse*, but the raiders made good their escape into Canada. All was quiet at last accounts.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BABY TENDER—A NEW INVENTION.—Next to sewing, the most exhausting work of woman is the care of babies. It is not strange, therefore, that the baby-tender should follow the sewing-machine in the list of inventions adapted to general household use. Brown's baby-tender, the only attempt that has been made to supply the almost universal want, we have had on trial and can commend as superior to most human baby-tenders. For a little baby it is a cradle, with all desirable appurtenances, having a verticle spring motion as gentle as that of a mother's knee. This motion is produced by a treadle, and does not interfere with sewing or reading. The cradle is turned in any direction by a touch, and the whole machine being on castors, is moved with slight effort. The cradle can be changed at will into a little couch, adjustable at any angle, and when the baby is old enough to sit up, it may be made a chair, with a place for playthings in front, while the child can dance up and down, [illegible]d by the verticle spring. When the [illegible]'s old enough to stand, a support, re- [illegible] about the centre, sustains it in its efforts to step, and when it has learned to walk, a hobby-horse attached instead of the cradle, affords healthful exercises and amusing pastime. The machine is also capable of being transmuted into a nursery chair or a high chair for a table, and when not in use for babies becomes a handsome ottoman. Its cost is moderate—from $25 to $150, according to style and finish; its construction is entirely safe; when packed it occupies nine cubic feet, and it weighs from 50 to 75 pounds. Few families, of even moderate means, can afford to be without a baby-tender, and in the course of a few years we expect to see it in general use.—*New York Tribune.*

THE PROGRESS OF THE TELEGRAPH.—The lines of telegraph which are destined one day—and that not far distant—to "put a girdle round the earth," are progressing with great success. The line between England and the East Indies, by way of Bagdad and Bussorah, is reported to be finished and in working order, with the exception of one hundred and sixty miles of land telegraph, between Diwanyeh and Korneh, where the river Tigris and Euphrates meet. The whole length of the other route to India, through Russia, to meet the cable under the Persian Gulf, will be completed in a few weeks. The lines, land and submarine, running south to China and Australia, and Singapore and Java, present so little difficulty, in consequence of the shallowness of the water to be crossed, that it is not doubted that within three years daily telegrams may be received in London from Hong Kong, Melbourne and Sydney. This will complete the circle of the Eastern Hemisphere, and will be just in time to meet our Atlantic telegraph on the shores of the Western, which will be then completed; and we shall have the whole world in the grasp of the electric fluid—a fact which will represent the greatest triumph of science in the present age.—*New York Herald.*

In describing the disaffection of the Missourians to the rule of Mr. Lincoln, Dr. Mackay has given some additional instances of the brutal ferocity of some of the Northern generals. At a place called Palmyra, General McNeill had set up his headquarters, and was informed that a Unionist, for whom he entertained some special regard, had been shot by Southern guerillas. In retaliation he ordered ten suspected inhabitants of the town, whom he fancied to be in league with the guerillas, to be shot. One of these was an elderly man, married, and having a large family. A younger man named Sydnor generously offered to take his place, and McNeill had the inconceivable brutality to accept his offer, and to murder him instead. In Kentucky, under Paine, another case nearly or quite as horrible has occurred. A Federal soldier was shot by a rifle ball in front of the fences owned by a man suspected of Southern sympathy. When Paine was informed of the circumstance he gave his orders, and the farmer and his son, a lad of sixteen, were immediately shot. No defence, no leave-taking, simply a deliberate murder of two poor wretches as a matter of retaliation. The atrocities of Paine have, however, become too great even for the toleration of the Federal Government, and he has been compelled to flee into a neighbouring State to escape the punishment of his crimes. "It may be deplorable," adds Dr. Mackay, and most people will agree in the sentiment, "but it is not surprising that the Confederates should retaliate upon the Federals when they have the opportunity, and that the war should rapidly degenerate into a war of savages."

It is stated that everything is in readiness for the issue of a new call for 300,000 more men, and that the draft will be enforced in pursuance of the provisions of the Conscription Act, about the beginning of the New Year. Gen. Grant wants the men in camp long enough to make them well-disciplined soldiers before the campaign opens in the following May. The last call for five hundred thousand men was a failure, notwithstanding its enormous cost, as it did not more than supply the places of the men whose term of service was out, or who fell in battle. The next draft will be rigidly enforced. It is estimated that the term of service of two hundred thousand of the veteran troops will expire this winter.

It is reported that the Washington Administration proposes to "inaugurate proceedings" to put gold down to 150 and keep it there. One would suppose it has had enough of this kind of financiering. The New York *Commercial*, alluding to the rumor, says:—"Is it possible that after all the experience of the past—after the unfortunate gold bill, which raised the premium on gold from 200 to 285 within nine days, and whose repeal did not place gold anywhere near the point from which it had raised it, because the enactment of the bill undermined the public confidence in regard to the future action of Congress—is it possible that our wiseacres in Washington still believe that Government can control the price of gold? They might as well attempt to make water run up hill by virtue of an enactment of Congress. Every interference on the part of the Government and of Congress will only aggravate the evil intended to be corrected."

PRIZES THEM HIGHLY.—MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S World's Hair Restorer and Zylobalsamum or Hair Dressing are prized highly by all who use them. Careful study and experience has made them what they are acknowledged to be in foreign countries as well as at home, the only valuable preparation for restoring, invigorating, beautifying and dressing the hair. Those who use them have no grey hair or bald spots. Every Druggist sells them. W. R. Watson, Agent for P. E. Island.

WHO CARES?

Who cares for the last year's rose?
Or the flowers of last year's May?
Or the leaf dried sweet in a mouldy book
Of the love who is away?

Who cares for the cloud gone by?
Or last week's rain and wind?
Or a golden cresent of folded curl
The dead one left behind?

A tress and a faded leaf
Slight things to a cynic's eyes;
But to me they are keys that open the gates
Of a heaven of memories.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

MR. EDITOR:—

Having briefly adverted in my former communications to the changes that have been made in our educational affairs, and to the lamentable consequences that have naturally followed, it only remains for me to offer a few suggestions to my fraternal *confreres*, to the deluded public, and to our Government, in regard to the measures best adapted to resuscitate and promote our colonial education. It has already been clearly shown that, unless such measures be speedily adopted, our common schools will soon relapse into that primitive, old-fashioned, barbarous condition which characterized them in the early days of our great-grandfathers. A moment's consideration is sufficient to show the intelligent reader the *modus operandi* which it is necessary to follow in order to carry these measures into practical effect.

It has been made clear enough to all who wish to look into the matter, that our school visitors are labouring with all the assiduity and zeal they possess to represent our schools in the most favourable light, and to impress upon the minds of the public and of the Government the *monstrously false* opinion that education is in a prosperous and flourishing condition in P. E. Island. These hired minions, to carry out the measures of their unscrupulous masters, do not hesitate to convey the most incorrect and unfounded information, in order to hood-wink those who might be induced to give the matter a thorough investigation. It is necessary, therefore, for all our school teachers to make one unanimous and combined effort to relieve the minds of the public of these erroneous notions, and to make known to the world the true condition of our educational matters. Let our teachers come forward unitedly, and show to the inhabitants of this colony the deception and duplicity that has been practised during the last five years by those who are entrusted with the management of our school affairs. Let them give a fair, unbiassed representation of the condition of our schools, of the amazing retrogression that education is making, and has been making since the the inauguration of Conservative Government, and they cannot fail to awaken and enlist the sympathy of an enlightened public. There are, I am persuaded, friendly editors who will not hesitate to encourage and assist the oppressed schoolmasters in their efforts to overthrow the spreading errors that have arisen from misrepresentation and deception, and to establish truth and justice. If our teachers neglect this important opportunity, it will certainly be their own fault if they never be emancipated from the miserable bondage and the virtual serfdom in which they are now placed.

There is little doubt in the opinion that the confederation of the Colonies would be materially beneficial to the welfare and progress of colonial education. It is quite evident that an intercolonial Government, in its attempts to re-organize and re-model the public institutions of the Provinces, will make huge alterations and amendments in the squeamish, humbugging laws now in force in reference to School Education. Indeed it is but reasonable to suppose that the consideration of this most valuable and important institution will be about the first on the list of general matters, to engage their attention; and there is no reason to doubt that when *men* and not *minions*, when talented, noble-minded statesmen and not puny, politicians, take these matters into consideration, they will treat them with fairness and equity, and establish the institution on a satisfactory basis.

Having now given the question a brief and very imperfect investigation, and having attempted to convey to the intelligent reader a fair idea of the miserable state of our public schools, and of the immediate necessity of an extensive educational reformation, I beg to submit the matter to his earnest consideration, hoping that he will be led to see the error of the opinion which he may have entertained before he perused these lines, and to lend his assistance in establishing TRUTH AND JUSTICE.

Yours respectfully,
A TEACHER.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, December 12. 1864.

HON. EDWARD PALMER *vs.* "THE EXAMINER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR;

In your paper of the 28th ultimo, you have copied from the Herald a paragraph, communicated to that paper by whom I do not know, relative to Mr. Coles' motion at the Union Conference for £200,000 to buy up the proprietory interests; and have commented on that paragraph in the following words, "1st. Mr. Palmer *did not* second the resolution mentioned: if he did, no one heard him. He certainly did not offer one remark upon it, which, at least, might have been expected from the seconder of so important a resolution. 2nd. The resolution was *not* laughed at by the Canadians. 3rd. Mr. Coles did *not* ask for a grant of £200,000."

I beg leave to correct your statements by informing you that I did second that motion; and further, that before the Conference met on the morning the motion was made Mr. Coles, at our Hotel, submitted to me the form of it in writing: that I suggested a few words of alteration which Mr. Coles immediately concurred in, whereupon I told him I would second it and accordingly I did so. That you did not hear me, is very probable: the little interest you took on behalf of the Island while sitting at the Board may well account for that. You were, in fact, nearly the whole time occupied in writing something, which I suspect more immediately concerned yourself, or your Paper. Your motive for misrepresenting me is too transparent to call for comment on my part: The tenor of your logic in doing so is such, I dare say, as would answer the purpose of some of the readers of the *Examiner* exceedingly. It would enable them to quote the first sentence of your paragraph No. 1, as the Devil is said to quote Scripture. Might you not, by the same rule, assert as follows: "On the morning of the 25th November last, the sun did not rise at Quebec. If it did, neither I nor any other member of the Conference saw it rise." Thus you might have proved to the public that the sun never rose at Quebec on that morning just as truthfully and logically as you have proved that I did not second the motion alluded to.

You have stated that I did not offer one remark on that "important" resolution. I did not, as I soon saw from the manner Mr. Coles' remarks were received that the minds of the Members of the Conference were decidedly made up on the question.

Pray did it occur to you, when you were penning your animadversions on me, to state what you said yourself in support of this "important" resolution, or in support of any other resolution or motion in which our Island interest was immediately concerned? You say Mr. Coles' resolution was not laughed at by the Canadians: my impression is that it was. It was certainly laughed at by some of the members of the Conference, and if not by the Canadians, not one of them shewed either support or sympathy for it.

I remain, Sir,
Your obt. Servt.,
EDWARD PALMER.

5th December, 1864.

ANSWER.

TO THE HON. EDWARD PALMER.

SIR;

THE foregoing letter, as I intimated to you in the last No. of THE EXAMINER, was not withheld from the public on that day from any unwillingness on my part to comply with your request as regards *its publication in this journal*, but simply because it was impossible to find space for it in the issue of that day, owing to the time at which I had received it, (between 9 and 10 a. m. on Monday), after the country edition had been printed and sent by Mail, and when the little space that remained for the Town Edition was pre-engaged. Besides, I was desirous of getting the testimony of two other members of the Delegation to confirm my statement and to disprove yours, and that, I knew, could not be done without some delay: for you could not suppose that I would allow you to publish unfounded remarks of me in my own journal without being ready with a reply.

In your eagerness to get your wonderful letter into print, you have *sent it to two other papers*—one of which, the *Herald*, seems only too anxious to bolster you up in your misrepresentations. Of course, you and your new-found friends of that paper regard it as such a literary gem that it would be unfair to the anxious public to keep it from them for the space of a week. But I shall show them all the value of it before I end with you. You insinuate that I ought to have published your letter last Monday, *because* there were other articles in that paper reflecting on you. Allow me to inform you that most of the matter you refer to was written several days before I had received your letter, and printed in the edition of Saturday night.

Now let me turn to your letter.

You deny positively my first statement as contained in the following words:—

"1st. Mr. Palmer *did not* second the Resolution mentioned. If he did, no one heard him. He certainly offered no remarks upon it, which, at least, might have been expected from the seconder of so important a resolution."

This is the principal statement, and to this I shall, with the permission of my readers, mainly direct their attention. It is really a matter of no very great importance whether you *seconded* the resolution or not, but when I saw it pompously proclaimed that *you* were the zealous friend of our Tenantry at the Quebec Conference—that *you* were entitled to their gratitude for *your* eminent services on their *behalf*, and that, by implication, every other member of the P. E. Island Delegation was remiss in the performance of his duty towards the tenantry of this Colony—my attention was given to the subject. It was, no doubt, very agreeable to you, in the budding of your aspirations for popular applause, to be placed in a position *entirely* new to you, that of friendship towards the leaseholders of this Island. I saw by your silence when the statement was made in one paper, and repeated in several others, that you were willing to swallow this small bit of flattery, to the apparent disparagement of your co-Delegates. I see now by your letter that you are determined to make a struggle in asserting your supposed right to it. But the right cannot be allowed.

You insinuate that because I did not hear you *seconding* the resolution, I, in my delegated capacity, was inattentive to the interests of the Island. Suppose I convince you that three other Delegates from the Island beside myself did not know you to do what you say you did, will you say that *they*, too, were *inattentive to the interests of* the Colony? Now, I bring to support my statement the testimony of Mr. Coles, the mover of the resolution, and that of Mr. McDonald, our co-Delegate: besides the unreservedly expressed words to me, in Charlottetown, of Mr. Secretary Pope, to whom I put the question the other day: "Whether he heard you seconding the resolution?" and he promptly answered me, "that he did not hear you doing so."

But as regards Mr. Coles's testimony, it is more important, as it comes directly from his own hand. On Monday I addressed that gentleman the following note, and received the subjoined reply:—

Monday, Dec. 5, 1864.

DEAR SIR;

Will you be kind enough to state to me in writing whether you *heard* Mr. Palmer *second* your resolution at the Quebec Conference, in relation to the subsidy for the purchase of lands in this Island; and whether the resolution proposed to set apart for the object contemplated the interest or the principal of £200,000?

Yours truly,
EDWARD WHELAN.

The Hon. G. COLES.

Monday, 5th December, 1864.

DEAR SIR;

In answer to your note of this morning, requesting to know whether I "heard Mr. Palmer second my resolution at the Quebec Conference in relation to the subsidy for the purchase of lands in this Island:" also "whether the resolution proposed to set apart for the object contemplated the interest or the principal of £200,000:" In the first place, I have no recollection who seconded my resolution at the Conference Board; but Mr. Palmer, at a private meeting of the Delegates, who met in the P. E. Island room in the St. Louis Hotel, at my request, to consult on the resolution, said he would support it. As to your second enquiry, I herewith enclose you the resolution proposed by me at the said Conference.

Yours truly,
GEORGE COLES.

The Hon. E. WHELAN.

"*Whereas*, Prince Edward Island has no Crown lands, mines or minerals, whereby to raise any local revenue, all its lands having been granted to large proprietors on certain conditions, which, in most instances, were not fulfilled; and Her Majesty's Government having decided that an Escheat of those Townships was inexpedient, but in lieu thereof recommended a purchase of those lands by the Government: *Therefore Resolved*, that the sum of $50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) annually, or as much thereof as may be required, be paid by the Federal Government to the Local Government to enable it to pay the interest on any amount that may be expended in the purchase of the Township lands of the said Island."

Is it possible that Mr. Coles could have mistaken the nature of the "support" you gave his resolution? He does not say that you promised to "second" it. He says you promised to give it your "support"—WHICH EVERY ONE OF THE ISLAND DELEGATES DID AS WELL AS YOU. You say you seconded it. You and Mr. Coles are at variance on this point. Was he inattentive to the matter under consideration? He states that he did *not* hear you second his resolution. Mr. Coles has a very keen sense of hearing—he sat nearly opposite you, not more than three or four feet apart; and he could not possibly be mistaken on a matter of this kind. Had you distinguished yourself by the very slightest manifestation of zeal for the tenantry, I think it could scarcely have escaped his observation.

Now, let us come to Mr. McDonald's testimony; and allow me here to state that no gentleman at the Conference was a more attentive listener to its proceedings. He was always in his place, day and night, and took, as I understood from himself, ample notes of the proceedings. His chair was close alongside of yours, and I think he must have heard you seconding the resolution, if you had pronounced the formula merely in a whisper. To ascertain Mr. McDonald's knowledge or recollection of the affair, I addressed him a short note by Tuesday's Mail, and received the following answer:—

Georgetown, Dec. 6th, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR:

Yours of yesterday, asking if I could recollect that Mr. Palmer seconded Mr. Coles's resolution relative to the grant for the purchase of lands in the Island, is at hand.

In reply, I must say that I do not *think* that Mr. Palmer did so; and I feel certain that he did not say anything in support of the resolution.

My impression is, that I said, "I second it," and that Mr. Galt got up immediately after Mr. Coles, and made some remarks on the subject, and that but little more was said when the matter was voted on—P. E. Island voting in favour, and all the other Provinces against it. There was but little discussion on the subject at the time the resolution was moved, as it had come up incidentally several times. All this took place when the Delegation sat in committee. When the question of settling the finances was passing finally I moved the resolution for Mr. Coles, and neither Mr. Palmer nor any other delegate from P. E. Island was there to support it. I have no recollection whatever of Mr. Palmer advocating the measure of a grant to purchase the lands, and I think if he had done so I would remember it.

Many resolutions were moved at the Conference without being formally seconded at all, and this was the case with Mr. Coles's resolutions when I moved them—they were voted on and received as if they had been seconded.

Yours very truly,
A. A. MACDONALD.

Mr. McDonald's impression is precisely the same as my own. I thought he was the seconder of the resolution. I will continue to think so in spite of all you can say to the contrary. What Mr. McDonald says, in the concluding part of his note, is perfectly true—that resolutions proposed in the way that Mr. Coles's was proposed did not generally require a formal seconding.

Now, you see we have the testimony of *four* Delegates against *one*, namely, yourself, *that you were not heard seconding the resolution*. Will you venture to assert that the whole four were either deaf or inattentive to the interests of the Colony? I have not heard whether Col. Gray or Mr. Haviland (the other two Delegates) have any knowledge of the newly discovered interest you manifested on behalf of the tenantry; but I believe they were pretty much like the four whose testimony I bring against your own individual word—and I have no doubt they would say, "they did not see you taking any interest in the matter, or uttering one word in regard to it."

You say:—"Pray did it occur to you, when you were penning your animadversions on me, to state what you said yourself in support of that 'important' resolution, or of any other resolution or motion in which our Island interest was immediately concerned?" I shall not discuss the question with you whether I spoke as often at the Conference as you did. I only know that on the very few occasions on which *you* displayed your eloquence, you were not listened to with the most flattering attention, nor that you made any extraordinary impression. I shall not say whether that was attributable to your own dullness, or to want of courtesy on the part of your brother Delegates. But, indeed, we all know that there was not much occasion for speaking on behalf of the Island. Its sectional interests were only three or four times brought into special notice; for instance, as regarded representation by population in the Lower House. You admitted that principle before you went to Canada, as the Canadian Convention was based upon it. Again, whether there should be four or five representatives from the Island in the Upper House, and whether they should be nominated by the Crown or elected by the people. You supported nomination by the Crown instead of election by the people, although you have been a strenuous advocate of the latter principle in this Island. However, this Colony will not be injured by the adoption of that principle any more than the other Provinces. There were a great many other things in which all the Provinces were alike concerned, and particularly the allowance for local Government of 80 cents per head of the population; and the assimilation of the several tariffs. These are matters concerning which we are vitally interested, and which are now resorted to by you for denunciations against the measure which, at Toronto, you expressed your determination to recommend to the people of this country, and for the accomplishment of which you declared your ardent desire. As regards the capitation allowance and the tariff, we will not be worse off than the other Maritime Provinces; and I am not aware that you made any special complaint on behalf of P. E. Island with regard to these affairs. Another matter in which we are most specially concerned was Mr. Coles's application for a separate grant. I have already shown the extent of your "support" of that application. You ask what did I say in support of the resolution when it was moved? I have the candor to admit that I said only just as much as you did—but I claim to have been as good a supporter of it as you. I voted for it, and you did nothing more. It was your duty, or the duty of some other member of the Government to speak on behalf of it, and not mine. Would it not have been extreme folly and presumption for *two* members of the Opposition to have led off, one after another, in advocating a measure of this kind, while three members of the Government sat by, as silent as the grave? It was the especial duty of the Government to have urged, in the first instance, the subsidy for the purchase of our Township lands; but the other Provincial Delegates were undoubtedly led to believe, from your ominous silence and that of your colleagues, that the Government did not favour the measure proposed by Mr. Coles; and that it was merely a political ruse of the Leader of the Opposition. It will be of no use for you to make the flimsy excuse, that you had no time to speak before the question was put upon the resolution because there is undoubted testimony, that of Mr. McDonald, to show that while Mr. Galt was speaking on the subject, you had time to review within your own mind the arguments you should offer in favour of it; and you know very well that no Delegate was, at any time, prevented from saying what he pleased on the subject of a resolution; if he had no opportunity of doing so before the question was put, he could do so afterwards by moving for its reconsideration. But it was clear to me that the measure was not acceptable to the Island Government, and it appeared hopeless for the Opposition to make any attempt to carry it.

You say that nearly my whole time in the Conference Room was "occupied in writing *something*." Quite true. Did you want me to be talking all the time? But you add: "which I *suspect* more immediately concerned yourself or your paper." I will let your suspicion pass. Minds like yours afford a congenial habitation for suspicion. The "something" which I did write there were only notes of the proceedings, and you can inspect them, if you please; *other* members of the Conference did the same. I thought I was not erring in following their example. I wrote scarcely one line for my paper in the Conference Room; but if you had delivered yourself of any startling dialectics there concerning, for example, the rising of the sun at Quebec on a certain day, or any other heavenly object to which a snail-like being might attempt to soar, you may depend that the phenomenon would have been too great for my pen to resist reporting it for my own or any other paper.

I think I have now knocked from under your feet the worse than fragile structure from which you and your *Herald* friends have been proclaiming the Hon. Edward Palmer as the especial champion of the Tenantry.

The other two matters are easily disposed of. *First*—that the Canadians laughed at Mr. Coles's application. I said that they did not. You reply—"my *impression* is, that they did." Well, my "impression" is, I think, quite as good as yours, and I oppose it to yours in this matter. The Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland Delegates, voted against it to a man, as well as the Canadians; and, however much they might be disposed to smile at observations made in debate on the gravest questions, they possess too much gentlemanly feeling wantonly to insult any gentleman from this Island making a proposal to them. I need scarcely add that Mr. Coles is not the gentleman who would be likely to remain in his seat at the Board after receiving such an insult; and his antecedents show that he is not solicitous of *your* championship of his honour.

The only other point in my denial of the *Herald's* statement is, with regard to the £200,000. I said that Mr. Coles did not ask for that sum. Now, turn to his resolution which you will find appended to his note above, and observe that he mentions "$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars), *or as much thereof as may be required*."

Now, Sir, I think I have made good, in every respect, my denial of the statement endorsed by you. I observe by a second letter in the *Herald*, that you promise to favour me with more of your brilliant efforts in the newspaper arena. We have met often in the political, and two or three times in the legal arena; but your long pump did not extinguish me in either; and it is quite refreshing to read the announcement of your intention to figure in one in which I have had very considerable experience. For the present, then, farewell.

"THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER."

"VERACITY OF THE *HERALD* EXEMPLIFIED."

THE following paragraph appeared in the *Herald*, (lately known as the *Vindicator*,) on Wednesday last:—

"The Editor of the EXAMINER informs us that he has just commenced to study the subject of Confederation. This is certainly cool. After having condemned Union as an "expensive sham," and then attended the Convention while in session at Quebec, and lastly signed the scheme of Union agreed upon by that Convention—the proceedings of which he has been authorised to compile and print—the Editor of the EXAMINER now informs us that he has commenced or is about to commence to study the question of Confederation! The assurance must be consoling to the people of St. Peter's, who will be favored specially on the consummation of the scheme, not merely with a "plank road" from the Head of the Bay, to Mount Stewart Bridge, but with a "golden" one. Thanks to the gods."

The first sentence contains an untruth. The "Editor of the *Examiner*" has not said that he has *just commenced* to study the subject of Confederation." He said he was studying it—a materially different thing. That means, we should say, viewing the question of Union from all points, and weighing the arguments on both sides. "The Editor of the *Examiner*" has certainly made up his mind that Union is desirable and practicable, but it involves so many topics of enquiry that scarcely any one can truthfully say he *has mastered* the whole question. If the *Herald* writers would engage in the study of it too, it would be more to their advantage. They would be less prone to jump to rash and groundless conclusions, and to assert silly and ridiculous falsehoods.

"The Editor of the *Examiner*," as again falsely stated in the *Herald*, has *not* been "*authorised* to compile and print" the proceedings of the Convention. He may print and compile what he likes, *in any way that he likes*, and if persons in *all* the Provinces have confidence enough in him to take his compilation, we think it will be admitted that it is much more to his credit than otherwise.

The allusion to a "plank Road" from St. Peter's Bay to the Head of the Hillsborough, is very small and contemptible. The mean and malicious motive which prompted such an allusion is evidently to convey an impression that Mr. Whelan promised his constituents such a public work, and that he is more likely to urge it now in order to gain support for Confederation. Mr. Whelan never entertained such a project, and is never likely to entertain it in any contingency; and he may assure the writers for the *Herald*, not for their comfort but their mortification, that he is not in the least alarmed regarding an adverse opinion amongst his constituents, especially if that opinion has no better basis than the puny hostility of such writers as those of the *Herald*, who shew that they are not greatly troubled with a keen sense of honour when they make it a practise to visit the house of the man they vilify, and then make use of part of his conversation as material for their scribblings.

ANOTHER FALSEHOOD.—That Col. Gray signed the Report of the Convention at Montreal "ON SUNDAY, 30th day of October last"—*Vide* "Herald."

FENCING.

As an admirable specimen of "English undefiled," we reproduce from a letter in the last *Herald*, which was meant to be a very severe attack on the Editor of the *Examiner*, the following "elegant extract." The writer is no other than the learned Attorney General of this Island. He alludes to our remark, that we were "studying the question of Confederation:"

"In other words, he is standing on the fence. It would be very unfortunate, if, while he is making up his mind, and balancing himself so carefully on the top-longer, the agitation which my letters have produced on him would have toppled him off into the field on one side or the other and put him to the necessity of backing over into the opposite side whence he originally started from before he received the welcome appointment on the Delegation."

If any ingenious person, skilled in the use of words, will tell us what the learned Attorney General means by "toppling from one side of a field *or the other*," and then "backing over into the opposite side whence he originally started," we shall be much obliged for the favour. There is a mighty confusion of ideas about the thing. One part of the blundering and ungrammatical sentence we *can* make out,—it is this: that we are "agitated" by Mr. Palmer's writings. "Agitation" is not the proper word—he should have said we are *bothered* by them. We recommend Mr. Palmer to go on cultivating the style of writing of which the above extract is a specimen. It will be his best shield in any "field" of controversy. Every opponent, in sheer despair to understand what he is about, will leave "fence and field" to himself, exclaiming with Sir Andrew Ague-cheek: "Plague on't; an I had thought he had been valiant, and so cunning in *fence*, I'd have seen him damned ere I'd have challenged him."

Here is a fine question for the exercise of Mr. Palmer's peculiar talent for writing the English language in a way that cannot be understood:—"What is the value of a man's word who declares at a public dinner his determination to support a certain political measure, and afterwards says that the declaration did not contain a word of truth, but was only made to cajole and humbug his feeders?" Of course, his essay would be the more admired if every sentence of it were quite incomprehensible and abounded with bad grammar. We should like to publish the essay in a neat book form, with a frontispiece representing an old politician dancing the top-longer jig before a Banquetting party, masked on both sides of his head—one turned to the banquetters, all smiles and blandishments; the other frowning and making hideous grimaces to a crowd in the distance, who are supposed to be shouting, in the words of Philip Faulconbridge:

"Teach us some fence, Sirrah!"

ALARMED!!

WE take the following paragraph from the *Protestant* of Saturday:—

"With regard to the cry of 'Priest! Priest!' we have but little to say. We did hope that nothing of the kind would be introduced into this controversy; but when the services of such are sought in a manner degrading to Protestants, we according to the principles of our Journal, have a duty to perform. The Islander does not deny that one of the advocates of Confederation actually called on the Bishop, and if this was done, they and not we are the aggressors. We feel bound to oppose the combination of Roman Catholics, as such, for any particular political purpose. If they freely without the constraint of their clergy, honestly support or oppose any measure, it is nothing to us. We are happy to believe that Roman Catholics are generally opposed to Union, and we trust that their Clergy will have the good sense to let them enjoy their opinions. We desire not, nay we would lament it deeply, should religious prejudices be stirred up on the question of Confederation; but if scheming politicians raise the war whoop, we shall be found at our post."

The *Protestant* was the first paper in the Colony to raise the cry against the interference of the Catholic Clergy of this Island in the question of Confederation. We do not know to what extent they have interfered, or are likely to interfere in it; but certainly they have an unquestionable right, in common with other citizens, to hold and express an opinion on that or any other political question. If they favour Confederation, it will be a proof of their good sense and judgment. We are happy to know that the Hierarchy and Clergy of Canada, Upper and Lower, encourage, in every way, the furtherance of the good work. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick we understand that their brethren in the Priesthood do the same, because they feel, truly, it will afford the best security for their religious and educational establishments, and will be the death-blow to intolerance and bigotry in the present divided sections of British America.

The *Protestant* seems to be shocked that "one of the advocates of Confederation actually called on the Bishop" of Charlottetown. We hope it is not a serious crime for gentlemen holding opinions favourable to Confederation to pay their respects to his Lordship when it suits their convenience to do so. We know of another "advocate" who did the same thing, and it is not unlikely that he will repeat the *offence* some time in the course of a year or so.

The *Protestant* believes that the Catholics are "generally opposed" to Confederation, and trusts that the Clergy will not disturb their opinions. Catholics, like Protestants, are divided upon this question; but we think it is a piece of cool effrontery to say that the Catholic Clergy should not exercise in State affairs the influence which their high calling confers upon them. If this is the settled conviction of the *Protestant*, we ask why did he not endeavour to impress it upon the minds of his Reverend friends of the various branches of the Scotch Church previous to the last general elections? They were the most active canvassers and agitators on the occasions referred to, and we believe they had the applause of the *Protestant* for being so. It was all right for Presbyterian ministers to combine to carry an election, and muddle themselves in all the strife of local party warfare; but oh, it is wrong for Catholic clergymen to express an opinion to their lay brethren, whenever they think proper to do so, on a great national question which concerns all religions and all peoples alike! That is a doctrine which we entirely repudiate, and which we are sure no sensible man will accept.

THE UNION QUESTION.

THE UNION OF SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND CONSIDERED AS ANALAGOUS TO THE PROJECTED UNION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND WITH THE OTHER BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

That a matrimonial union between a rich and powerful family and one possessed of neither wealth nor influence, generally tends to the elevation, in a secular point of view, of the latter, especially as respects its rising members, is a fact of which not only family histories but the annals of nations afford most striking proofs. And not only is this true in private life. It is equally so as regards the union of a rich and powerful state with a poor and feeble one, of which the Union of England and Scotland affords the most undeniable evidence. Yet—obvious as the advantages of this union were to both the parties, in the estimation of men who were capable of judging without prejudice, and of feeling for the true and permanent interests of their country—throughout Scotland, amongst all ranks and classes of her people, notwithstanding the balance of profit evidently inclined to that country, the idea of a union was held in abhorrence; and not only whilst the treaty was pending were addresses against it presented by several of the counties, burghs, presbyteries and parishes; but when it was first laid before the Scottish Parliament, long and violent debates took place, and protests were recorded against every vote in its favor. To this union—which, in spite of all the opposition encountered by the treaty in the course of its progress in both kingdoms, was, happily for the domestic peace and the accumulated force of the two nations, agreed to by their respective Legislatures, and ratified by the royal assent—we now refer, on account of the many points of similarity existing between it and that recommended by the Report of our