meeting hereby pledges itself at the approaching election to support those gentlemen in their opposition to the Quebec Scheme of Union, or to any other measure calculated to subvert the Constitution of this Colony or to curtail its liberty or privileges.

Votes of thanks were severally awarded unanimously to the Members for the District, to Mr. Haythorne, to the Chairman of the meeting, and to the representatives of the Charlottetown Press present—Mr. E. Reilly and Mr. R. B. Irving; and the same were acknowledged by brief and suitable replies.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Coles, three cheers were then given for the Queen; on motion of Mr. Haythorne three cheers for the Honbles. G. Coles and Francis Kelly their representative; and on motion of Mr Alexander Robertson three cheers for Mr. Haythorne.

THE LATE RAIDS, AND OUR NEUTRALITY LAWS.

(From the New York Times.)

The leading Fenian adventurers who have been repulsed from Canada, and held to answer to our own Government for the gross and indecent violation of our neutrality laws, evidently made some calculation on the indignation of the American people at the conduct of the British Government during the late war. They are ready now to charge upon the Administration at Washington a want of pluck in not availing by the Fenian demonstration to retaliate upon Canada, and want of pluck in refusing their sympathies where a blow was intended against what these blundering leaders supposed we would recognize as the common enemy.

It was surprising into what serious mistakes these Fenian leaders, and others of much higher intelligence and experience fall in regard to the real temper and self-respect, and devotion to law and treaty obligations of the American character. We do not claim for our people any peculiar sensitiveness to mere personal dignity, but we have a right to say that, in all that concerns the true honor of our Government, its just recognition of international comity and duty, and the exercise as well of moderation and magnanimity as of all proper firmness, they *are* eminently distinguished for practical good sense and promptness of action.

The Fenian leaders failed to discover this quality in season, as some of our cousins across the Atlantic failed to appreciate it in the early years of the late rebellion. But it is never too late to learn. We doubt not these Fenian "belligerents" will be slow to repeat the mad experiment of using our neutral frontier for another raid on Canada. We are equally sure that if ever this nation should have to chastise another rebellion among our own people, neither the British Government in London nor the Provincial authorities in Canada will be so eager, as in the late war, to recognize "belligerent rights," much less to sympathise with and entertain border robbers and unprincipled conspirators against the United States Government.

The mistake of the Fenian leaders was, in supposing that we desired to have these unneighborly and unkind acts on the part of some of the Canadian people redressed by such a raiding rabble as *they* propose to precipitate upon the Provinces from our neutral territory; in supposing that after the triumphant end of our war against domestic treason and rebellion, we could not afford to treat with dignity and moderation, if not with entire forgetfulness, the wrongs done by our neighbours, or that we could afford to forego our own self-respect in openly tolerating the violation of treaties, by way of showing a malignant or spiteful spirit of retaliation. Even if we had occasion to treasure up wrath against the day of wrath, we would at least have the decency to select other executioners of our vengeance than the O'Neills and O'Sweenys of the last week's sorry farce. An open declaration of reprisal would surely be preferable to *this* humiliation.

THE N. Y. PRESS ON THE LATE RAID.

In order that our readers at a distance—who do not see the daily papers of this city—may judge for themselves of their tone on this subject, we encroach upon our editorial space in order to place before them extracts therefrom, not only upon Fenianism generally, but particularly upon the position of the U. S. Government in the present emergency. Some weeks since we sounded the note of warning, and although the blood of inoffensive men has been shed by the reckless adventurers and murderers, it is at least something that the majority of our most influental contemporaries acknowledge the crime, and pointedly place the blame where it in part belongs.—*New York Albion.*

But the proclamation comes late. Fenian meetings have been held all over the country, for many months. One powerful branch of the organization openly avowed its purpose to attempt the liberation of Ireland via Canada, and to that end raised money and set on foot well-known enterprises without a whisper from the Government. It will not be strange if the numerous body whose proceedings received in this manner the tacit approval of the Government should now complain that they were lured on to their destruction. They will have some ground for asserting that they were encouraged to expect toleration in every act not openly hostile to the law, and they will criticize the proclamation of yesterday as the late avowal of a purpose on the part of the Government to stretch its prerogative for the suppression of a movement it had nursed into activity. Had the Government interposed when Col. Roberts collected his followers in public meetings, the enterprise must necessarily have been arrested at the outset, and would never have grown into a military organization, nor ever have alarmed the householders of Canada by an incursion across the border. The lives of the men who were sacrificed in an attempt that assumed the indifference of the President, might have been saved had the mask of indifference been thrown off earlier or worn a little later. Now, it need not amaze anybody if the thousands of men who, in this Fenian effort, have put at hazard their lives and fortunes, demand to know the motive of what will seem to them an unaccountable vacillation in policy, and an unexpected uncertainty of Executive purpose.—*Tribune.*

The men who have gone into the Fenian raid have done so with their eyes open. They cannot pretend to suppose that they have any protection in the claim that they are belligerants or politicans. Success would give them the protection they desire, but until they have such success they are mere adventurers, and their acts are to be judged by the laws relating to persons in Canada or in the United States, without reference to the laws relating to nations and national expeditions. Every Fenian soldier in Canada is therefore subject to the same class of laws which govern the people of Canada. If he steals, it is felony; if he kills, it is murder. This is plain enough, and we may take it for granted that the Fenians understood it when they began their raid, and felt the responsibilities which they assumed.

A more criminal raid was never heard of in the history of modern nations. The idea of asserting Irish independence by a murderous onslaught upon the residents of a remote British province is absurd. The people of Canada have no concern about what the Irish do in Ireland, or what the British Government does with that Island. The destruction of life in Canada, therefore, is a crime which has no excuse, and the whole expedition must be looked on precisely as we should look on any band of men going secretly into Canada and destroying life and property.—*Journal of Commerce.*

The President has issued a proclamation warning all persons against taking part in the unlawful enterprise which Sweeney, Roberts, and others have undertaken, and commanding both the civil and military authorities to do *their duty* in the premises, and arrest all who engage in this land-piracy.

It is well that everybody should know that, in this Fenian crew, all who claim the rank of officers, subjects them, under the laws of the United States, to a fine of three thousand dollars, and imprisonment for three years; while all who take the part of private soldiers or sailors in this organization subject themselves to one thousand dollars fine and three years imprisonment. Moreover, Sweeney, Roberts and all the other leaders and originators of this Fenian enterprise are subject to a fine of three thousand dollars and three years' imprisonment for that offence.

There is no doubt that the courts will enforce the law. If any one foolishly doubted the disposition of our government to observe the obligations to our neighbors, he is now enlightened by the proclamation of the President. We have the disposition and the power to maintain peace and order on the border. The country demands that this shall be done, at all hazards; and the measures already taken will put an end to the enterprise which was hopeless from the first, and whose chief result will be, as everyone but its victims foresaw, to drag a considerable number of misguided men from their homes and peacable industries, and make them violators of the law. —*Evening Post.*

The following extracts are taken from journals which have from the first exaggerated Fenian influence, and indirectly given encouragement to all their movements.

The President undoubtedly was placed in an unfortunate position with regard to the Fenian movement. On one hand it was his duty to see that the laws be enforced and that the honor of the United States be preserved; on the other hand he could not ignore that public sentiment which run against England without endangering its popularity. * * We are not called upon, however, to protect the Canadians; let them protect themselves. We should merely be neutral.

Whatever the opinion of the government at Washington may be with regard to the character or imprudence of the Fenian movement on Canada, it is to be hoped that the Secretary of State will not be permitted to sacrifice feelings of humanity or do violence to public opinion in yielding too much to British demands and vengeance. Mr. Seward is too apt to toady to foreign governments and to sacrifice America pride and interests to their wishes. Let him imitate in the present case the invariable conduct of Great Britain, which throws the protection of its flag over its subjects everywhere, right or wrong. Let not our government be too severe itself on those who have erred, and let it not fail to give all the protection possible to its citizens who may have fallen into the hands of the British.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Their campaign (no matter by whose fault) has been badly managed. The Fort Erie demonstration was too much in advance of the main movement on the St. Lawrence, to allow them any chance of success. The British have had so much time for defensive preparations, that an invasion now would lead only to an enormous sacrifice of life to no purpose. The lives of our Irish citizens are too valuable to be thus thrown away in a hopeless undertaking, and, in *their* interests, the government does well to interpose and save them from the fate on which, with uncalculating bravery, they are ready to rush. We trust they will now abandon their enterprise; that the government will treat them all, leaders as well as followers, with lenity; and that, in consideration of its vigour, the Canadian authorities will not deal too harshly with the unfortunate Fenians now in their hands.—*N. Y. World.*

BUNCOMBE IN CONGRESS.

(From the Toronto Globe, June 15.)

We published on Friday a resolution moved in Congress by Mr. Ancona, of Pennsylvania, demanding the repeal of the neutrality law of the United States, for the reason that the Fenian cut-throats had found that law inconvenient. The American papers bore a fuller report of the proceedings relative to the disposal of that resolution. Mr. Hale moved to lay it on the table—in other words, to burke it. Several members sought to offer suggestions to Mr. Ancona, but having moved the previous question, he was unwilling to modify his position, but he finally consented to alter his resolution a little. Originally it had "instructed" the Committee on Foreign relations to report a bill repealing the neutrality act of 1818; as altered, it simply instructed the Committee to enquire into the propriety of reporting such a Bill. The House then refused to lay the resolution on the table by a vote of 4 yeas to 113 nays. Gen. Schenck, of Ohio, then offered a substitute in the following terms:—

"*Resolved*—That the President of the United States, in the opinion of the House, should reconsider the policy which has been adopted by him as between the British Government and that portion of the Irish people who, in the name of Fenians, are struggling for their independence, and that he be requested to adopt as nearly as practicabe that exact course of proceeding which was pursued by the Government of Great Britain in the civil war in this country, between the United States and the rebels in revolt, recognizing both as lawful belligerents, and observing between them a strict neutrality."

Mr. Harding, of Illinois, then proposed another substitute for both propositions, "declaring that the course of the Government in repressing the Fenian invasion is ignominous and disgraceful." Mr. Shenck declined to consent to the offering of that substitute. Gen. Banks, of Massachusetts, persuaded the Ohio General to consent to a motion referring both the resolution and the substitute to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, promising that if that were done the Committee would make a report. Mr. Hale made another motion to lay on the table, and this time got eight votes against 113. Subsequently he endeavoured to offer a compromise amendment, but was prevented by the refusal of Mr. Ancona. The motion of Gen. Banks then prevailed by a vote of 91 to 34, and the question goes to the Foreign Relations Committee, with the chairman's promise that a report shall be made. Mr. Hale afterwards sent to the clerk to be read the resolution which he had been prevented from offering. It proved to be a manly and honourable declaration—"That the honour and good faith of the United States imperatively demand a just and vigorous enforcement of the neutrality law, and that this House will entertain no proposition looking to their repeal, revision, or violation."

We would like to see a direct vote upon Mr. Hale's amendment, as we have a little curiosity to know how many men there are in Congress, courageous enough to do right regardless of what is termed "the Irish vote." There surely are more than the eight who voted for Mr. Hale's second motion to lay on the table. It would be wrong to attach much importance to the discussion upon Mr. Ancona's motion. The anxiety on all sides to flatter the Irish for the sake of their votes is palpable enough in the whole business. There is great pleasure, too, to a genuine American Anglophobist in saying offensive things about England. But beyond that nothing is meant. There is not the slightest danger that Congress will undertake to disgrace the United States by repealing its neutrality law in order to permit banditti to plunder a neighbouring Province. Bitter as prejudice against Britain may be in the States, it will not lead our neighbours to that extreme. The pity is that the national legislature of a great and enlightened nation should stoop to discuss, even for buncombe purposes, a proposal to dishonour itself. We cannot conceive of the possibility of the Commons of Great Britain degrading itself in such a manner.

CAPTAIN SEMMES.—Capt. Semmes, who is a member of the legal profession, was a short time ago elected by an unanimous vote Judge of the Probate court of Mobile county, Ala. Since then Gen. Wood, the Federal commander of the district, has issued an order, in accordance with instructions from President Johnson, forbidding Capt Semmes to exercise the function of judge, "or any other civil or political office of trust while he remains unpardoned by the President."

THE GENTLE SEX.—It is stated that the ragamuffins who invaded Canada had with them a flag given them by the "ladies" of Maldon with this old Pagan motto upon it—"*Væ Victis*"—or "death to the conquered." In the same spirit we are told that "General" Spear exhorted his so-called troops on entering Canada to spare the women and children, adding that he left the enemies of their country in their hands—which we suppose means that the women were to be spared as widows and the children as orphans! And these things can be reported in American newspapers without apparently raising any considerable indignation among those who peruse them.

SENTINEL FIRED ON.—The men of the Gas Works on Monday night were called out by an alarm from one of the sentinels in Dalhousie street, who said that he had been fired on and had heard the bullet whisk past his ear. The next sentry, and a Fire Company also declared they heard the report; but notwithstanding an active search, no one could be discovered who had committed the outrage. We understand the sentinel at this post had been pelted with stones on previous occasions. Perhaps the guilty parties may yet find themselves trapped, should they repeat their misconduct.

THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE.

Wilmer and Smith's *European Times* under the above heading says:—

"The position of the chief actors in the sanguinary drama which is soon to be enacted on the plains of Central Europe has slightly changed during the last week or two. The Emperor of the French now finds that he must *finesse* a little. His people have no wish for war, do not desire to be forced into it, and think that France is great and potent enough without any new accession of territory. All the monetary and middle class who have anything to lose are dead against it. This class must be cajoled, and accordingly the semi-official *Constitutionnel* has set about the work. It shows that the Second Empire means peace. To ignore the war in the Crimea and the war in Italy was impossible; but the former war was undertaken in conjunction with England to put down a great menace to Europe, and the latter was entered upon to free a great and enslaved people. If France, which rules Europe, can bring together tools that are about to disturb the peace of the Continent, they may be induced to listen to reason; if they will not so listen, France has done her part. In this spirit of self-glorification the notes of the oracle are pitched. It is clear, from Mr. Gladstone's speech in the House of Commons on the 24th, that there is not the slightest hope of peace; and though Mr. Gladstone was too polite to say it, too skilled in diplomatic court s, to utter a word that could give offence, he really meant that our Government had no faith in the sincerity of its powerful neighbour. Austria has no taste for war; Prussia hesitates, as well she may, with a discontented people and an unpopular Prime Minister. The only Power that is really in earest, is Italy, and Victor Emmanuel is the creature of France. Louis Napoleon pulls the strings, and the puppets dance to his order. The Congress, of course, will meet, and England, France, Russia, and the three embryo belligerents will enter it; but not for two or three weeks yet, by which time France will be ready to unsheath the sword, the real object of the meeting being to throw dust in the eyes of Frenchmen. If it were not so, a word from the Emperor of the French would dissipate the fears of war in an instant. If he were to say, in sincerity, "the Power that strikes first makes me his enemy," a million and a half of men now arming for the fatal shock would be rendered as harmless as doves. With regard to the farce of a Congress, no one attaches any importance to it. There will be plenty of talk about a re-distribution of territory; but this is a question only success on the field can settle. France cannot avow her designs to the statesmen and diplomatists who will sit round a green table in her own capital; but when the time for action comes she will be less modest. A Paris correspondent, who is well versed in the secrets of the Foreign office there, two or three days ago a conversation which purported to have taken place between the Emperor of the French and Prince Metternich, to the effect that the Kaiser would never give up Venetia to Italy; he would fight both Prussia and Italy, and beat them. This done, he would probably hand over Venetia to the Emperor of the French, to do what he liked with it; but Austria would be no party to treating with Italy for the purchase of Venetia. It is more than probable that this conversation was not imaginary, and we believe, that it very accurately portrays the feeling by which Austria has been animated from the first. She means to fight, if attacked; but time only can show whether her success will be equal to her determination. There are rumors in Paris of the retirement of M. Drouyn de Lhuys—significant, if true.

REDUCTION OF THE CANADIAN TARIFF.—A movement looking to a general reduction of the tariff is spoken of in Montreal. The formation of an association, with this object in view, is said to be contemplated; and it is added that a public meeting will probably be the first stage. The degree of reduction desired is from 20, 25, and 30 per cent. to 12½ and 15. The importing merchants naturally dislike to be made the medium through which so large a portion of the revenue is collected; the system cramps their operations and requires them to have a much larger capital than would otherwise be necessary to do their business. They readily seize upon the idea thrown out by the Finance Minister, at the Cornwall dinner, that in the present condition of affairs it is desirable to give this country the attractions which cheap living must present to certain classes elsewhere.—*Toronto Leader.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[FOR THE EXAMINER.]

MR. EDITOR:

The Attorney General is reliably reported to have said, in a public room, that the signers of the Address to the seven gentlemen of the Assembly were actuated in that demonstration by a selfish hope to obtain office of pecuniary benefit under Confederation, or language to that effect. Mr. Palmer's derisively-made allegation has provoked a rejoinder; and if, in its administration, he is severely handled and damaging facts thrust home upon him, then the hon. gentleman must blame himself only for the application of merited reproof, and learn that the "time has arrived" for him to understand the potency and policy of the old saw relating to a man living in a glass house.

Suppose Mr. Palmer were right in his allegation, I ask, why and with what propriety can he sneer at those gentlemen? Has he not himself been an office-seeker and holder of office of pay, during a large part of his obstructive and useless public life? and does he not at this moment hug with death-like tenacity the office of Attorney General in the humiliation of ejection from the Executive? And, moreover, did he not make a desperate effort during the late session of the Legislature to create for himself a judgeship, but which object he signally and deservedly failed to accomplish? And in his defeat, the Colony was saved some £500 additional expenditure per annum; and it also was fortunately rescued from the then impending stigma which must have rested upon it by elevating to the Bench a man so unworthy of the position. And is it not a notorious truth that the Hon. Mr. Palmer, some eight years since, walked into the Assembly upon the pledged principle that no member of the Assembly should not could hold office of emolument under the Government? How did Mr. Palmer, after his return under that pledge, sustain his public integrity and keep his pledge to the electors? I answer by the fact that a gentleman was gazetted Attorney General, and under that cover, Mr. Palmer, *sub rosa*, received the pay. Thus his pledge was violated, and his public honor was buried in the debris of untruthfulness. At this juncture the "necessities" of this gentleman—(ay, "necessities" is the word now in vogue)—were generally known to be pressing, and there was so much consideration for his family, that the party attached to the Attorney General, one and all, connived at his receiving the salary of the office while the duties were performed in the name of another. This is the mode in which he illustrated in his own person his much vaunted theory about members of the Legislature being independent of office and its allurements. And now, forsooth, with this load of political odium upon him, the Hon. Mr. Palmer has the indelicacy to charge upon others a seeking for office.

I have not yet done with Mr Palmer. The materials at my command are ample to his confusion, and I will, at my pleasure, use them, so as to exhibit in its full light the character of a most disingenuous public man.

DEXTER.

THE ANTI-CONFEDERATE MEETING IN THE CITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR:—

At the adjourned Anti-Confederate meeting held on Tuesday last, a resolution was passed reflecting on the conduct of his Worship the Mayor. It seems extraordinary that a resolution characteristic of the senseless petulance of angry schoolboys than of the grave deliberations of intelligent men, and far more condemnatory of themselves than of the object of its censure, should have been passed without a dissenting voice at a meeting where there must have been a certain number (small perhaps) of men of sense and right feeling.

It is well known to every one but a perfect ignoramus that the actual duty of the Mayor in calling a public meeting ends with the publishing of the requisition,—his attendance is not necessary to the organization of the meeting, and at any time is a matter of courtesy. In this instance it was particularly so, as his worship was known to be opposed to the object of the meeting. To expect him to remain and take part in the proceedings was simply preposterous. Indeed, had he altogether declined to comply with the requisition, he would have been perfectly justified, as the meeting was not called to discuss a matter of general interest, but to further the purposes of a political faction.

Our highly esteemed Mayor has been elected to the Civic chair for several years without opposition. His occupation of it has been alike creditable to the City and to himself. For the last two or three years his Worship has only consented to take the office at the earnestly expressed wish of his fellow citizens, who would not hear of his resigning. Under the circumstances I think Mr. Haviland can well afford to smile at a resolution which was obtained by the private malice of a brace of wasps taking advantage of the temporary irritation of a few citizens—the silly threat of the *Herald* in allusion to the civic Elections in August next he may well treat with contempt.

While on the subject of this great meeting I may remark that the Confederate members have still reason to be satisfied that they have a large share of the intelligent members of the community with them, if one may judge of its composition by those selected to prepare the address, who, though perfectly respectable in their way, are certainly not noted for intellectual attainments.

Yours, &c.,
CIT.

THE CITY MEETING.

MR. EDITOR,—

Being detained in the City to attend the Supreme Court, and finding time hanging heavy on my hands, I was informed on Tuesday, that, in the evening would be held in the Court room one of the largest meetings ever convened in the City against a confederation of the British North American Colonies. I was resolved to attend and get all the information I possibly could on the subject. What was my surprise on entering the room to find, with the exception of about twenty-five persons, that the leading men of Charlottetown were absent. The mechanics were poorly represented—not a man of that class having a word to say; the medical faculty were placed in the same situation: the Merchants of the City were few and far between; and the speeches which emanated from those that did address the meeting, were delivered at random and contained broad assertions not founded on facts. The Bar was very poorly represented. Mr. Laird was there, with too other junior proprietors of Newspapers, viz—the *Herald* and *Ross' Weekly* David reiterated the old story, in, as he supposed, his best style, and when he had finished you could not tell what he had been making all the noise about. The Pulpit orators on the anti-confederate ticket did not appear. After passing an Address to the Hon. J. C. Pope and others, and the Hon. Edward Palmer and others, the Editor of the *Herald* moved that the Address be referred back for the purpose of amendment. He had to encounter much opposition, but finally carried his point, stating that in its present condition one half of the people would not sign it.

The business for which the meeting was called, having been bungled through—two only of the champions of freedom being honored by having their means mentioned in the Address—Mr. E. J. Hodgson brought forward a Resolution reflecting on the conduct of his Worship the Mayor, for an alleged insult offered to the citizens on the day previous, and gave as his reason why the resolution should be carried that when he, the said E. J. Hodgson, requested his worship to remain in the chair he took no notice of the request. This Resolution was seconded by a gentleman with whom I had no acquaintance. Both the mover and seconder appeared to entertain deep rooted personal enmity to his Worship. Much credit is due to the Hon. Daniel Brenan, who acted as Chairman, and who would not put the Resolution until he had first expressed his disapproval of it; and I feel assured that upon calm reflection very many who voted for it are now ashamed of having lent themselves to the spiteful and disreputable proceeding.

I had nearly forgotten to state that not more than two hundred persons attended the meeting, and many of them were minors.

My impression is, Mr. Editor, that the Union element largely predominates in the City.

Yours,
A FARMER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR:—If we were not aware that things happen but too frequently here, that occur no where else, some surprise might be excited that the vote of censure upon our highly respected Mayor should have passed at the anti-Confederate meeting "without one dissenting voice." But party prejudice leads men to overlook the just merits of a question, and to decide without reflection.

That our honorable and much esteemed Chief Magistrate should have been so wantonly insulted in the independant exercise of his lawful authority, is a matter of general regret; but unmerited persecutions, he must be well aware, are not unfrequent in this little community.

The mover of the resolution (which by the way is very awkwardly worded) is a young, and by no means influential individual, anxious, no doubt, to obtain notoriety in some way or other, although in this instance he has made a somewhat unfortunate selection, since men of very opposite opinions readily concur in discountenancing the presumptuous forwardness of those who scarcely comprehend the usages of civilized society, and reprobate their freedom of remark upon the conduct of their seniors and superiors.

It would be well, perhaps, both for young and old alike, if they followed more closely the pious teachings of early life, and endeavoured to manifest a stronger disposition "to honour those in authority, and to order themselves lowly and reverently to all their betters."

A CITIZEN.

MR. EDITOR;

Sir:—At a Debate held in the Midgell School House, on Monday, the 25th ult., on the subject of Confederation, the following Resolution was proposed by D. McPhee, Esqr., seconded by Mr. Andrew Lewis, and carried by a majority of the electors present:—

"*Resolved*, That Confederation on principles just to the Island would be beneficial."

Owing to the shortness of notice, a smaller number were present than was desirable during the discussion of so important a subject, but a sufficiency to show that the subject of Confederation is regarded favourably in this quarter.

Yours truly,
ANDREW LEWIS.

St. Peter's Bay, June 27, 1866.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF P. E. I.

Messrs:—I am sensible of my inability to dictate in a fascinating style, and if ever I possessed ceremonious artfulness, it no longer characterizes me, for of this unimportant, if not superfluous, quality and of many other similar ones, I have been bereft, by the unrelenting hand of age. Bearing this in mind, then, you will surely be so courteous as to pardon the absence of eloquence and sublimity, while I tender to you a twig loaded with figs (facts) which, I have no doubt, will be most execrable to your delicious tastes; but which have been, as will subsequently appear, well seasoned. As already hinted, I cannot, ceremoniously, approach the nature of my grievance; but, with all due deference to epicureans, I would call your most qualified attention to the Grand River Bridge, now in course of erection.

This Bridge, as you are well aware, should have been finished, according to promise or agreement, in October last; but, sadly to relate, it yet remains a Babel of confusion. Was not the contractor "bound down to the letter of law" to fulfil his agreement? and why, I ask, when he failed to do so, did you not take legal proceedings in the matter and compel the pledged protectors of the would-be contractor to pay for the "whistle?" By that Bridge, the public, from whom the "tin" must come, have been put to sad inconveniences, during the past two years, and, to all appearance, the same shall be characteristic of the present summer, yea, of summers yet to come, it something is not speedily done. Some of the abutments are sinking rapidly, while others have an "upsetting" tendency, and will ere long, I fear, be floating down the river, with bottoms upward. Even if it were passable presently, it is inaccessible from the north side, owing to a morass which extends about one hundred yards from the northern end of the said bridge. This bit of precious morass has, in round numbers, cost the Island £100, and nothing short of a similar sum will ever render it passable; so that when you are viewed in the reflective mirror of economy you present nothing envious; and sure I am, that when you are weighed in the scale of public opinion you will be found wanting. Your good deeds when compared with your misdeeds sink into utter insignificance, and, above them the latter rise perspicuously to view, so that it would be in vain you would attempt to conceal them from a discriminating public, for they are written in characters so plain that he who runs can read them without halting.

The bridge reminds me of the poison tree on the island of Manzanilla. The consequences would be fatal to the man who would take his stand by that tree, and, almost similarly, so will they be to the encumbered stranger who will persist in forcing his way over the bridge; but, fortunately, however, by your precautionary wisdom, it has been built in a place where Nature has planted a beacon of warning, viz, the boggy morass to which I have already alluded. This, no doubt, will enable the piquant traveller to descry the state of the bridge, which, at the same time, if the unwary will obstinately pursue an onward course, despite all entreaties, he will get literally stuck in the monitor beacon, where he will be detained until a sufficient crew arrive to perform *modus operandi* necessary to his extrication.

There it is, a befitting monument to the memory of the ingenious and political architects, an eyesore to the interested public, a disgrace and nuisance to the surrounding country.

Perhaps to all this you reply, "Have you not a ferry on the Grand River?" True, sirs. But even the ferry is not what it should be, just because the contractor is not properly secured, and in consequence of this inadvertency, he is, to use an ordinary phrase, "swinging on his own hook," and as a sequence he is his own master. The ferryman's shortcomings are not few nor far between; but I do not feel disposed to criticise his conduct, at present, as I have been informed, by himself, that he has not received the promised and anticipated remuneration. *Periculum in mora.*

I am, respectfully,
SENEX HOMO.

Lot 14, June 21st, 1866.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, July 2, 1866.

[WE are indebted to the Toronto *Leader* for the following instructive article. Gentlemen here, who are opposed to Union with the other Colonies "on any terms" frequently remind us of the manifold imperfections of the Quebec Scheme, which, they assert, cannot be altered or modified in any way. This is not the opinion of public writers in all the other Colonies—it is not the opinion entertained by the Governments in all the Provinces—Canada included—else why should a new Convention be proposed to be held in London? The Quebec Scheme may be made the rough basis of union, but we have no doubt that it will be considerably altered and modified at the London Convention. The *Leader*, in several places, shows that a modification of the Quebec Scheme is practicable and desirable; and the utterances of so prominent a journal as the *Leader* are entitled to great respect. The opponents of union here should, we think, desist from referring to the Quebec Scheme, since they declare they will not favor Confederation, no matter what plan, or scheme, or terms may be devised.]

CONSTITUTION OF THE LOCAL LEGISLATURES.

No other question of equal weight with the formation of the local constitutions for the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, is likely to come before the Legislature during the present session. This is something altogether out of the ordinary line of legislation, and is a matter of much greater gravity than the enactment of any municipal law. The questions to be determined are how, and by what authority, the functions of legislation are to be performed, and by what body and in what manner the executive authority is to be exercised. The area within which the local authority is to revolve has already been prescribed: the division of powers between the federal and the local governments was marked out by the Quebec Conference and these boundaries were accepted by our Legislature. It is true that the Maritime Provinces are anxious to effect modifications of the Quebec scheme, and there is no point to which they are more likely to address themselves than on the division of powers between the federal and local governments. Not one of the four Maritime Provinces unreservedly adopts the plan of union agreed to by our Legislature. Of the three which admit the desirability of union—the fourth does not admit so much—not one is willing to accept the Quebec plan of Confederation without alterations. The precise nature of the alterations that will be asked by the different Provinces has not yet been indicated with any degree of certainty or distinctness. Complaints have been made in general terms that Canada is the Aaron's rod that is threatening to swallow up the local franchises of the other Provinces; and the local magnates who have sounded the alarm have protested very energetically against such a consummation. It is impossible that they may demand a different division of powers from that which has been prescribed, and so far as Canada is concerned, agreed upon. As there is to be a new convention, it is difficult to say what points will not be regarded as open to discussion and modification. The Nova Scotian delegates are bound by no instructions of the legislature from which they receive their appointment, except that they are to make the best bargain they can. But it is well understood that the Quebec scheme, if substituted in place of the resolution for sending delegates to England, could not have been carried. Newfoundland demands in general terms a modification of the plan, but there is no reason to suppose that its delegates will be hampered by any specific instructions conceived in a narrow illiberal spirit. In New Brunswick the confederates are so strong that they are not likely to find themselves obliged to appease a powerful minority by insisting upon difficult or impossible amendments to the Quebec conference resolutions.

In this state of matters there is some danger of proceeding to give shape and form to the local governments of the two Canadas. It is like beginning to build without knowing whether the foundation may not prove to be upon a boundary line which has yet to be run, or even on the wrong side of it. If the conference of delegates to be held in London should remove the line separating the local and federal powers in the Quebec scheme, any local governments which might be previously settled would be out of joint. We therefore take it for granted that the local constitutions will not receive the finishing touch in the first of the two parts into which the session will naturally divide itself. The Legislature must know how the whole scheme of union stands after it comes from the hands of the Conference proposed to be held in London, before it can deal definitely and finally with the local constitutions for Upper and Lower Canada.

As each Province must practically determine the shape of its own local constitution there is, and can be, no guarantee that they will all be shaped after one pattern, nor is it necessary that they should. Each Province will have certain subjects of legislation on which to treat; the nature of the machinery by which that work is done by any one Province will be a matter of comparative indifference to all the others. The United States thought it necessary to insist that each State should have a republican form of government; but still there was nothing like uniformity in the details of the several original State constitutions. If the different Provinces insist upon it, the same latitude will have to be allowed here. And in fact the form of constitution best adapted for Upper Canada might be very unsuitable for most or all of the Maritime Provinces. The truth is, responsible government has been so well worked out in none of the other colonies as in Canada. Local modifications have been adopted almost everywhere. While Governor Bannerman remained in Newfoundland, he assumed to do almost anything he took into his head, without much reference to his sworn advisers or anybody else. As a general thing, the smaller the colony the less perfect has been the working of responsible government. Prince Edward Island adopted modifications of the American system, and neither of the other Provinces ever thoroughly learned or practically applied the lesson that for all executive acts, the Ministry, and the Ministry alone is to be held responsible. The tendency in the small colonies has been towards a feverish desire for change: and this drove some of them into a partial imitation of the bad American habit of changing subordinate Government employes with each change of administration. It is the opinion of some of the public men in the Maritime Provinces that the local adoption of the principle of responsible government would deprive these small governments of every element of stability and make a rapidly recurring succession of changes the normal condition of things. This consideration, or this fear will probably cause them to aim at giving a certain degree of stability to the local executive. The necessity of a like precaution is not felt, certainly not to the same extent, in Canada. Here responsible government has worked well: and whatever difficulties have arisen have been traceable to circumstances which will cease to exist when Upper and Lower Canada have each a Legislature of its own. Why change that which has been found to work well? If there be advocates of a radical change, it rests with them to show the grounds on which it is to be defended. If there be any who advocate one House instead of two, and a fixed instead of a responsible administration, it is for them to show why they propose to throw down the old landmarks. It will be sufficient for those who think there should be as little change as possible that Upper and Lower Canada should each have a form of local government as nearly as possible resembling that which they have unitedly enjoyed since 1840—to take their stand on the ground that this system has worked well. On this ground the question may fairly be left to be fought out.

THE CITY MEETING.

WE have received, too late for publication in this edition, a report of the adjourned City Meeting called for the purpose of thanking those members of the Legislature who voted last Session against Confederation. The meeting was, according to report, a flat affair. The audience did not, at any time during the evening, number more than 180, or thereabouts, and of these a large proportion were boys. There was scarcely a score of influential persons in the whole meeting. Of course, they carried their resolutions, including one condemnatory of the Mayor for refusing to preside at the first Meeting. In our second edition we may give a fuller account of the affair. In the meanwhile we give the following short account of the meeting from the last *Islander*:—

ANTI-CONFEDERATE MEETING.

On Saturday last, the 23rd inst., a requisition numerously signed by parties in this City, opposed to Confederation, was presented to the Mayor of this City, the Hon. T. H. Haviland, requesting him to call a public meeting of the Citizens of Charlottetown, to enable them to express their thanks to the majority of the Legislature for having opposed Confederation during the late sitting of the Legislature. His Worship called the meeting for the following Monday, at the hour of two o'clock. At the appointed hour his Worship took the chair, and then requested the City Clerk to read the requisition convening the meeting. His Worship having declined to preside at the meeting, the Hon. D. Brenan was chosen chairman. A Committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, were then appointed to prepare an address to the majority of the Legislature who opposed Confederation: Thomas W. Dodd, Ralph Brecken, senr., Henry Haszard, Owen Connolly, Richard Heartz, E. J. Hodgson, and John Stumbles, Esquires, after which the meeting was adjourned until the following evening (Tuesday) at seven o'clock, then to meet in the Court House. The attendance at the adjourned meeting was much more numerous than that of the previous day. The Committee appointed to prepare an address reported the same. Several gentlemen addressed the meeting at considerable length. Mr. D. Laird moved, and Charles Palmer, Esquire, seconded the adoption of the address. At the close of the meeting the following resolution was moved by E. J. Hodgson, Esq., and seconded by Henry Hazard, Esq—

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that His Worship the Mayor of the City, having complied with the requisition presented to him on Saturday, to convene this meeting, should, at the appointed time, have offered a full opportunity and due facility for organizing the meeting, and disposing with due deliberation of the business brought before it; but this meeting cannot disperse without recording its opinion, that the conduct of His Worship the Mayor on the above occasion, in hastily and abruptly retiring after taking the chair, and in refusing to preside until a chairman was appointed, evinced not only a want of dignity for the office which he holds, but such an absence of all courtesy and respect for the citizens present, as was unmerited and uncalled for by any circumstances whatever.

The Resolution was put and carried.

H. Haszard, Esq., then took the chair and a vote was passed tendering the thanks of the meeting to the Hon. Daniel Brenan, for his impartial and upright conduct in the chair, when the meeting dispersed.

FISHERY LICENCES.

WE have learned, on good authority, that up to the middle of last week only six licences had been taken out by American fishermen, the tonnage of whose vessels amounted in the aggregate to scarcely 450 tons. We are informed by those who have seen them, that the fleet of American fishermen pursuing the inshore fisheries round the shores of this Island is unusually large—being from three to four hundred vessels. The licensing project is a decided failure, as we suspected it would prove. It would be better to let the Americans have the free run of the fisheries at once than impose upon them a restriction which they treat with contempt. The weakness of the Colonies, in their present condition, is painfully manifest to our greedy neighbours over the line engaged in the fisheries, who, in the absence of war vessels, have very little respect for international treaties. The Government of the United States have acted certainly in a most ignoble and ungenerous spirit in this business. They first closed their markets against our own fishermen, and then they coolly countenance the robbery by their citizens of one of our most valued interests, knowing we are to weak to avenge the wrong. This must be very humiliating to the Provincial people.

WAR IN EUROPE.

THE long threatened war between Prussia and Austria seems to have commenced. The Steamship *Java* arrived at New York on the 28th, (Thursday last,) bringing the news of the entrance of the Prussian troops into Saxony—of the entrance also of the Austrian forces into the same country, and of the formal declaration of war by Prussia against Austria. It is said that the first battle of the campaign was fought near Leipsic, but no detail is given; not even is the result of the battle stated in the telegram. The next English Mail direct to Halifax will be looked for with some anxiety, as likely to afford full information concerning this momentous event.

WE find the following very important information in the Toronto *Leader* of the 21st ult.:—

CONFEDERATION.

The Legislature of New Brunswick is expected to adopt the project of Confederation, next Monday; and unless something occurs in the meantime to prevent it, delegates from Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland will leave for England by the 30th inst. If this can be accomplished, the Imperial Parliament is expected to take up the question of confederation in the second week of July, and that the Imperial Act will be passed before the session closes. At this rate these provinces will be confederated early in the month of August.

The Government here could, no doubt, have given us this information without having to go so far as Toronto for it, for, we may rest assured, they have been invited to send Delegates to the London Conference, which, of course, in their mighty independence, they decline to do. What a precious figure the Island will cut in the estimation of the other Provinces and in that of Great Britain! Will her blind and spiteful opposition to Colonial Union, in any shape, be rewarded by letting her have her own way? Not at all likely. Great Brit