among my own constituents in Montreal, and I have no doubt you would like me to enlarge upon it as the point most immediately interesting to ourselves. * *

THE SCHEME AS A WHOLE.

This is the frame of government we have to offer you, and to this system, when fully understood, I am certain you will give a cheerful and hearty adherence. [Cheers]. We offer the good people of these colonies, jointly, a system of government which will secure to them ample means of preserving external and internal peace; we offer to them the common profits of a trade, which was represented in 1863, by imports and exports, to the gross value of 131 millions of dollars, and by the sea-going and lake tonnage of 12 millions of tons! We offer to each other special advantages in detail. The Maritime Provinces give us a right of way and free outports for five months out of every year; we give them what they need, direct connection with the great producing regions of the North-West all the year round. This connection, if they do not get through Canada, they must ultimately get through the United States; and one reason why I, in season, and perhaps out of season, had continued an advocate for an Intercolonial Railway was, that the first and closest, and most lasting connection of these Lower Provinces, with the continental trade system, might be established by, and through, and in union with Canada. (Cheers). I do not pretend that mere railway connection will make trade between us and them, but I am quite sure we can have no considerable intercourse, no exchanges or accounts *pro* or *con*, without such a connection, both for postal and travelling purposes. I rejoice, moreover, that we, men of insular origin, are about to recover one of our lost senses— the sense that comprehends the sea—(Cheers)—that we are not now about to subside into a character so foreign to all our antecedents, that of a mere inland people. The Union of the Provinces restores us to the ocean, takes us back to the Atlantic, and launches us once more on the modern Mediterranean, the true central sea of the western world. (Cheers). But it is not for its material advantages, by which we may enrich each other, nor its joint political action, by which we may protect each other, that the Union is only to be valued, it is because it will give, as it only can give, a distinct historical existence to British America. If it should be fortunately safely established and wisely upheld, mankind will find here, standing side by side on this half cleared continent, the British and American forms of free Government; here we shall have the means of comparison and contrast in the greatest affairs; here we shall have principals tested to their last results, and maxims inspected and systems guaged, and schools of thought, as well as rules of state, reformed and revised, founded and refounded. (Cheers). All that wholesome stimulus of variety which was wanting to the intellect of Rome under the first emperors will be abundantly supplied out of our own circumstances and those of our neighbours, so that no Cicero need ever, by personal consideration, enter into indefensible consistencies, and no Tacitus be forced to disguise his virtuous indignation at public corruption, under the thin veil of an outlandish allegory. (Cheers). I may be sanguine for the future of this country, but if it be an error of judgment to expect great things of young countries, as well as of young people who are richly endowed by nature and generously nutured, then it is an error I never hope to amend. And here, let me say, that it is for the young men of all the Provinces that we who labour to bring about the Confederation, are especially working; it is to give them a country wide enough and diversified enough to content them all, that we labour; it is to erect a standard worthy to engage their affections and ambition; it ist o frame a system which shall blend the best interests with the best manners, which shall infuse the spirit of honor into the pursuit of politics, that we have striven—and who can be more interested in our success than the young men of the Provinces, who are to carry on the affairs of this country into another century? (Cheers).

IS THE PLAN GENERALLY TO BE APPROVED.

* * * And now, gentlemen, that the architects have completed their plan, it is for you and for your representatives in Parliament—for my friend Mr. Pope and the other Township members,—for the people of the Maritime Provinces and their representatives to say whether this great work is to be carried, with all due diligence, to its completion. If the design should seem to you as wise and fit as it seems to us, then fling all misgivings far behind you, and go ahead? Let no local prejudice impede—let no personal ambition impede the great work. Why, the very aborigines of the land might have instructed the sceptics among ourselves that union was strength. What was it gave at one time the balance of power on this soil to the "six nations," so that England, France and Holland all sought the alliance of the red-skinned statesmen of Onondago? What was it made the name of Brant and Pontiac, and Tecumseh so formidable in their day? Because they, too, had conceived the idea—an immense stride for the savage intellect to make—that Union was strength. (Cheers) Let the personalities and partizanship of our times stand abashed in the presence of these forest-born Federalists, who rose superior to all tribal prejudices in endeavouring to save a whole people. (Loud cheers) I am, I do assure you, persuaded in my inmost mind that these are the days of destiny for British America; that our opportunity to determine our own future, under the favour of Divine Providence, is upon us; that there is a tide in the affairs of nations, as well as of men, and that we are now at the flood of that tide. (Loud cheers). Whether the men who have this great duty in charge may be found equal to the task, remains to be proved by their votes; but for my part, I am hopeful for the early and mutually advantageous union of all the Provinces — for the early and firm establishment of our monarchical Confederation on this continent.

THE AMERICAN WAR—THE CAMPAIGN.

(From the New York Tribune.)

There is a momentary lull, not in military operations, but in those brilliant displays of genius and courage resulting in grand successes which all last month rivetted public attention. The single effort against Wilmington, which did not result in a grand success, scarcely ruffled the easy temper of a people grown used to good fortune and able to endure an occasional failure. As it fades from view interest is renewed in the operations which Gen Sherman is expected to undertake from Savannah, and Gen Thomas from Tennessee. From the former we have nothing later than the return of Kilpatrick already referred to. But it now appears that that enterprising cavalry leader was not sent hunting after prisoners, but had a specific work to do in the destruction of the Savannah and Gulf Railroad, which runs south-westerly from Savannah to the border o Florida, and which has been one main source of supplies for Lee's army in Virginia. Sixty miles of this road Kilpatrick annihilated, and his cavalry is already far to the north reconnoitering on the road to Charleston Its activity indicates an early movement by the main body of Sherman's army.

The escape of the remnants of Hood's army across the Tennessee has ceased to be a matter of controversy. Hood passed the river on the 23rd by pontoons at Bainbridge, eight miles above Florence. A Nashville correspondent, apparently well-informed, says that the Rebel Army, when it left Tennessee, numbered not more than 18 000 men all told; that the number of deserters was enormous, and that in all the army there remain not more than 1,000 Kentuckians and four thousand Tennesseeans. Of the 2,000 men whom Hood kidnapped while in Tennessee not 100 crossed the river with him. The following indication of future schemes is, to say the least, plausible.

"Tennessee is now perfectly safe: no future attempts will be made by the rebels to occupy and hold it. Therefore, a new base of supplies will be found. The line of railroad from Nashville, south, is very long, and hence requires the detachment of a great number of troops to guard it, and from this point north the Louisville Railroad is often cut, and the Cumberland River is only navigable in winter. I believe, though, that Nashville will soon cease to be of much importance as a military centre. A strong guard will be left here, and the base of supplies will be changed to Florence. Of this I have no doubt.

"The Tennessee is navigable for small boats from Chattanooga to its mouth, at all seasons, and for large ones from Florence to its mouth, in high water, the only exception being between Dacatur and Bainbridge, over the muscle shoals. Around these, there is a railroad of only forty-five miles in length, and this could be kept open with comparatively few men. About the shoals there are numerous boats which run to Chattanooga, and there are also several small gunboats to keep the river open.

"We shall then have the advantage of a water base and a river line of defence. I have often wondered that this has not been before adjusted; but I feel certain that it will now be employed as a base. With an efficient cavalry force, properly supported by infantry and light artillery, Selma and Montgomery will speedily fall into our hands. Those towns would be no further from Florence than Nashville is from Louisville; and Louisville was our base in 1861-62; and Florence is to-day more securely ours than Louisville was then."

BERMUDA AND THE WEST INDIES.

The steamship *City of Petersburg*, at Halifax, has late dates. The Bahama *Herald* complains that the rights of the port of Nassau as a neutral one are now being infringed by the Federal Government, and regrets that there is no British man-of-war on that station to enforce observance of International law. It is said that Nassau is virtually blockaded by a Federal squadron, and that the Yankees are making use of the adjacent Cayes as coal depots in order to maintain it.

The schooner Orville, (American) from Philadelphia to New Orleans, called off St. George's on the 1st, to land Capt. Know, officers, crew, and passengers of the steamship Talisman, which vessel foundered at sea about 300 miles to the west of Bermuda. The Orville fortunately hove in sight in time to save the crew and passengers. The Talisman was from Wilmington, bound to Bermuda with a cargo of 450 bales of cotton.

The steamer Charlotte, which arrived at St. George's from Wilmington, on the 23rd ultimo, had 1015 bales of cotton on board; the Owl, which arrived on the 24th, has 700 bales; and the Colonel Lamb, which arrived the same day, 1760 bales.

The Bermuda Royal Gazette, of the 4th inst. says the fever has about died out. In summing up the ravages of the epidemic, the same paper says.—

"What has been the total number of cases, and what the exact proportion of deaths, it is extremely difficult to determine with accuracy—at least as far as the civilian part of the population is concerned. The cases among the military may be roundly stated at close upon 500, of which about one-third proved fatal—a rough calculation, based on statistics obtained as far as was possible, gives about 1500 cases in all among other classes, and furnishes a grand approximate total of within a few of 2000 cases and 670 deaths. A terrible per centage on the population!"

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir;—Pray permit me, through the columns of your *Examiner*, to observe that my letter complimentary of the Honorable George Beer, which you did me the favour to ventilate, has been read and unfortunately misunderstood by that Honorable Gentleman. This regretful fact I learn from the spirit of a very severe but refined communication—from his polished pen, published in your Journal of last week. The difference, however, existing between us is easily explained and settled. The Honorable Gentleman denies that he has issued his ultimatum of terms upon which Prince Edward Island would enter the proposed Confederation of the Colonies. I accept this denial. Who would doubt the Honorable Gentleman's word? And conceding the denial, I admit that he, the Honorable George Beer, has yet not determined on the precise or exact conditions upon which Prince Edward Island would formally go into the Union. The ultimatum final, then, is yet on an undeveloped page of the volume of the Honorable Gentleman's large mind, and doubtless will be revealed when the proper time shall demand the revelation. In doing me the honor of noticing my complimentary letter, I observe that the characteristic bane of the Honorable George Beer—modesty—forbade any reference whatever to the gist of my communication, which eagerly sought special information on the important point, involving the future of Prince Edward Island, namely, upon what consideration or conditions he, the Honorable George Beer would himself fill the vacuum in the Executive Government of this Colony.

Yours respectfully,
PRO BONO PUBLICO.

For the Examiner.

"Pro Bono Publico" presents his high consideration to "Scrutator," and regrets his, P. B. P.'s, seeming neglect to notice "Scrutator's" nice letter published in the *Monitor*. "P. B. P." assures "Scrutator" that neither slight nor slur was present, but the truth is that "P. B P.'s" silence up to this period, which might be construed into ungentlemany reticence, was the result of entire ignorance of the existence of his, "Scrutator's" amiable communication.

"Pro Bono Publico," now, however, has the honor of bowing respectfully to his friend "Scrutator," and thanks him for his excellent note and notice; and "P. B. P." has the satisfaction to link his own opinion with "Scrutator's" conviction, to the effect, that the high toned status—the great influence in this colony, and the general statesmanly ability, attended by extraordinary singleness of mind and unselfish purpose of the Honorable (I give, as due, the prefix in full), George Beer, demand for that patriotic and talented gentleman the first position under His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Dundas, in the Government of this Colony.

"Pro Bono Publico" feels, with "Scrutator," assured that in consideration of the public and private claims of the Honorable George Beer, a mere wink of a desire on the part of that modest gentleman to wield the destinies of this Island, would be eagerly caught, and prove sufficient to insure the appointment of the Honorable gentleman to the Presidency of the Executive Council and Leadership of the Government.

But in view of the material and moral interests of the colony, it is matter of profound regret, that the modesty, even to a fault (as observed in most great men), of the Honorable George Beer, would appear to preclude the possibility of the objective wink; and yet Hope—persuasive Hope the gentle flatterer, whispers, that the persistent bashfulness of the Honorable gentleman might be overcome, and the important wink be given, which would decide the elevation of the Honorable gentleman, and determine the destiny of this colony.

"Pro Bono Publico," continuing his high regard for his friend "Scrutator," suggests that when he, "P. B. P.," shall be put up at "Gidley's Brick Hotel," it might prove a rash act of "Scrutator" to visit "P. B. P." in that lodging, inasmuch as "Scrutator," being within the walls and bolts and bars of Gidley's house, he might, in the language of the caged starling, cry: "I can't get out."

24th January, 1865.

A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND.

Mr. Editor.—

Wonders never cease. Having, on the 20th instant, attended a meeting at New Perth, consisting mostly of ultra Tories, a report of which will no doubt be transmitted to the respective periodicals of the day for insertion, I was quite amused to see all the Tories change places with the Liberals present—the former in a resolution passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Palmer for the independent and patriotic manner in which he opposed the Union, both in Canada and Charlottetown, which, in my opinion, amounted in substance to a vote of no confidence in the Government of which they pretend to be the strenuous supporters. But, Sir, what amused me most was to see a white headed fogy present who, appeared to me, by the cut of his jib to belong to the liberal ranks; but what got into his old head I don't know; but as this is a time of coat-turning I began to think maybe the old fellow is going to turn his coat too; or anyhow to conciliate and please the Tories, and get some office from them; or to let them see the burlesque they were making of their Government; but says I to myself, my old chap, whoever you are, you better mind your own business. But, my dear Sir, did not he move as an amendment to the vote of thanks to the independent and patriotic Attorney General a resolution as follows:— "That this meeting do signify their disapprobation of the duplicity resorted to by the Hon. Gentleman alluded to while in Canada." And, Sir, if he moved that resolution to conciliate the Tories, they served him right—not a soul voted for his impertinent amendment but himself and two or three more.—But, my dear man, when the resolution was put you'd hear the *Ayes* at the dreary waters of Babylon, and to demonstrate their disapprobation of said amendment, subsequent to the resolution and amendment being disposed of, a worthy J. P. of the yellow order chastises the Chairman for submitting said amendment, because the mover being in a hurry did not subscribe his name to it. Myself thought it made no odds, as he had the paper in his hand and read it himself.

I remain, yours respectfully
A SPECTATOR.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, January 30, 1865.

UNION IN THE ABSTRACT.

It is rather singular that nearly all the anti-Unionist controversialists readily admit *Union in the abstract* to be a very good thing. They do not seem to be aware of the importance of this admission to their antagonists. They do not appear to know that by granting this they yield almost everything worth contending for. We are rather of opinion that this concession has been made unadvisedly, and we would not be surprised to see all our anti-Union writers soon taking the more consistent and more logical position that Mr. Beer already occupies. That gentleman cannot now see his way into the Union on any terms. He, in effect, denies that the principle of Union in the abstract is a sound one. The rest of the anti-Union Party, from the Hon. Edward Palmer down to Mr. Joseph Murphy, of Lot 11, appear to think that if a Union of these North American Provinces could be effected without injuring the interests or lessening the importance of any single individual in those Provinces, such an Union might possibly be productive of good. They profess to be very willing to see the field ploughed and harrowed if no crimson-tipped flower would be buried beneath the sod, or no mouse's nest torn and scattered by the unrelenting ploughshare. "Your theory of cultivation," say they, "is, for aught we can see to the contrary, sound; but," they add in tones most melancholy, "if it be carried into effect, what is to become of the daisies, and the mice? Make your system of husbandry consistent with the preservation of daisies and having a due regard for the rights and interests of mice, and the time may, perhaps, arrive in which we will give it our favorable consideration." These anti-Unionist writers and orators place the feather in one scale against the mountain in the other, and scream with delight when in imagination they behold the beam incline towards the incalculably lighter weight.

That Union is strength, has been admitted by every race of men, whether savage or civilized, from the earliest times. Modern experience has proved union to be not only strength, but civilization, prosperity, and even national existence itself. Let those who advocate the isolation, and all but independence of an insignificant community of some eighty thousand souls, try to imagine the state of the civilized world — if indeed there would be a civilized world—in the year of grace 1865, if every petty community on the face of the globe had for the last thousand years pursued the jealous exclusive policy which they promulgate with such untiring industry, and with so great an expenditure of sound and fury. But if this be too high a flight for their imagination—and I can easily believe that it is — let them endeavour to picture to themselves the aspect of the world to-day if mutual jealousies and antipathies had kept the various peoples of the British Islands estranged and apart. Had not the necessities of their situation and the wisdom of their sages drawn together the divided and reluctant population of these Islands, the greatest of all modern empires would never have existed. The parts which compose that empire would, in all probability, have long fallen a prey to their more powerful because more united neighbours and rivals. Strike the British Empire from off the roll of nations, and what a blank would be created! Eliminate from the problem of modern civilization the effects of British enterprise and the influence of British intellect, and what would be the result? There is no nation, tongue or people whose condition would not be very materially modified by the process. The intelligent reader, when he reflects on the stupendous influence exercised by the British nation over human affairs, will begin to see, if he does not already perceive, the importance of national union. England, Scotland and Ireland, separate, and unfriendly, were and would always continue to be comparatively powerless and uninfluential. The material resources of these countries would have ever remained but imperfectly developed, and the energies and capabilities of their inhabitants would always have been in a great measure untried and unknown.

It will not, we think, be very difficult for the reader to go back in thought some two hundred years, and imagine an Englishman, a Scotchman and an Irishman discussing the desirability of a Union of their several countries into one great empire. They readily admit that the abstract idea of union recommends itself to their minds, but their mutual distrusts and dislikes induce them unanimously to decide that, however beautiful Union may appear in theory, it is practically an impossibility. They see not only lions in the path of Union, but dragons and "chimeras dire," and every howling and yelping creature known or thought of. We, having the experience of the intervening two hundred years to assist our judgment, see clearly that the disputants were wise in admitting the principle of union, but exceedingly foolish in allowing what appears to us to be unreasonable prejudices, groundless fears, and an unenlightened self-interest to blind them to the great and manifold advantages that would most certainly accrue to the native land of each of them from carrying that principle into practice.

It strikes us very forcibly that the opponents of Union this day on this Island are in pretty much the same situation as that in which we have placed our imaginary discussionists. Their opposition to Union is, in our opinion, caused by fears equally groundless, and by prejudices equally unreasonable. It may be that hereafter some writer, perhaps the contemporary of Macaulay's New Zealander, will cite their objections to Union as an example of the narrow-mindedness and short-sightedness of Prince Edward Islanders in the nineteenth century.

The rise and progress of the United States of America should convince our opponents that the project of Union is based upon no beautiful but untried theory, and should induce the reasonable and disinterested among them as carefully to weigh the arguments for, as the arguments against, a Union of the Colonies. The condition of those Colonies, which have since expanded into the American Republic, was in many respects similar to ours. They were, as we are, separated into isolated communities, without any general bond of union. Their enormous material resources were undeveloped. The people that inhabited them, though possessed of many and great virtues, were unenergetic and unenterprising. In the world their influence was unfelt, but no sooner was the breath of national existence breathed into the sluggish masses of the population than they sprang into national importance with almost miraculous rapidity. A nation was, indeed, born in a day. This hitherto unknown people soon caused its influence to be felt in the councils of nations. The United States increased in wealth, in population, and in extent of territory in a manner unparalleled. Who will have the temerity to say that had those communities, which now form the United States, each maintained a separate existence, their prosperity and importance would have been this day anything like what it now is? Would they, in that case, have possessed a tithe of the wealth with which the Republic abounds? Would their aggregate population in 1865 have exceeded that of the Mother Country? Would they have possessed cities in population and riches at all to be compared with those of which the United States can now boast? Would these disunited Colonies, with their limited sphere of action, and their petty aims, have produced such men as adorn the pages of the history of the United Nation? What would now be their *status* in the family of nations? Yet, the internal resources and external advantages would have been the same in both states of existence. The soil would have been as fertile, the earth as rich in mineral treasures, their rivers as broad and deep, and the same seas would have washed their *shores*. But wanting union and national life, the riches of nature would have been spread before them in vain. They possessed neither the energy nor the means to benefit by her generosity. And why can not the British American Colonies, to the extent of their natural advantages, prosper as the United States have prospered? We have no wasting war to wage before we can reap the fruits of Union. This exhausting trial, this severe discipline is spared us by the parent country. We can begin life under much more favorable auspices than they did; and why, we ask again, will not their success be proportionately great? Who doubts it? Statesmen in Britain do not—those in the United States do not—the leading minds in the Colonies predict a most brilliant future for British America. Who, then, are the prophets of ill? A number of very small people in a very small Colony. They fear that a Union, which will enrich the principal countries that compose the Confederation, will impoverish them. This is like granting the body to be in excellent condition, yet dreading that the little finger may perish for lack of nourishment. Is this reasonable?

PROGRESS OF CONFEDERATION.

The St. John *Colonial Presbyterian*, of the 19th instant, alluding to the state of public opinion in regard to the question of Confederation, truthfully shows, in the following lines, how that question stands in four of the Provinces:—

"We assume that the confederation of the Provinces will be effected. Prince Edward Island will probably not enter the confederation at present; there will be an influential and compact minority in Nova Scotia against it; some of the monied classes in St. John, and politicians in opposition throughout the Province, will oppose it, *but it will be carried in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by large majorities, and the same will prove true in Canada.*"

As for this Island she will, no doubt, do her little possible to keep aloof from the general arrangement; but it would be absurd to suppose that her contumacy would, for any length of time, be countenanced by the Imperial Government, when we know that that Government are exceedingly anxious to see all the Colonies consolidated, and be thereby better prepared to protect themselves. It is not at all likely that Prince Edward Island would be allowed to form an exception to a general plan of Confederation, and continue to be a burthen and annoyance to the British Government. Think, and talk, and write as we please about it, this conviction must force itself on every well informed mind, that if the other Provinces in British America be united, Prince Edward Island must speedily cast in her lot with them. This cannot be tortured into the form of a threat. Every sensible man knows right-well that if four millions of British subjects in our neighbourhood adopt a uniform plan of government, 80,000 people here cannot, if they wished, be suffered to have a little sovereignty of their own, requiring the special protection of Great Britain; or, without that protection, be allowed to drift into the condition of a wretched appendage of a foreign country, and be thereby a source of weakness to the loyal Provinces on the mainland, who cheerfully embrace the Imperial policy in regard to Confederation. Our trust, then, centres in seeing the battle of Confederation manfully and successfully fought on the main land. If victorious there, the fortune of war will extort an acquiescence — whether it be reluctant or peevish, we will not say—from this now discontented Island.

Our contemporary, the *Colonial Presbyterian*, has made no allusion to Newfoundland. We are happy to be able to state, on information of the most trustworthy character, that the Colony mentioned is earnestly desirous of entering the proposed Union. The opposition to it in the capital city of St. John's is scarcely perceptible; whilst all creeds and classes—Catholics and Protestants, merchants, professional men, mechanics and laborers—seem to be holding up both hands for a measure that will help to develope their great resources to an incalculable extent, and open up extensive fields for their labour and enterprise.

THE NOVA SCOTIA PRESS FOR AND AGAINST CONFEDERATION.

Some of the anti-Union papers appear to be mightily pleased at the change which has recently taken place in the character of the Halifax *Morning Chronicle*. That paper has been, for about two months, a very able advocate of Confederation, the Hon. J. McCully, one of the Nova Scotia Delegates, being the editor. It appears, however, that Wm. Annand, Esq., was the real owner of the paper, and not the son of that gentleman, in whose name it was published, and who was the only party with whom Mr. McCully held business relations. Mr. Wm. Annand informs Mr. McCully that he must quit the editorial chair, because he (Mr. Annand) does not believe in the Union project. Mr. McCully retires without hesitation, and immediately finds a field for the exercise of his great abilities in another journal. The opponents of Confederation really gain nothing by the occurrence. They get, to be sure, the *Morning Chronicle* on their side, but they get the *Morning Journal* dead against them. The *Journal* occupied, heretofore, in regard to the question of Confederation, something like a neutral position. It will not shock its readers by declaring in favor of Confederation; while the readers of the *Chronicle*, who were apparently pleased with the tone of Mr. McCully's editorials on the Union question, will now have to beat time to different music, or bid their *Chronicle* good bye. Time will tell how they can relish their new literary pabulum.

Mr. McCully's forced retirement from his late editorial chair is a very small transaction that reflects no credit on the proprietor of the *Chronicle*. We will not pity the honorable and learned gentleman. Perhaps he ought to be congratulated on being relieved from a servitude wherein a master, moiling in the dark — not wishing to be known as master — expected that the brains of the labourer should be so worked as to accord with the dictates of his own contracted judgment. Daily life presents pictures of drudgery in many forms, in view of which most of us shudder; but we think we could not possibly find it more repulsive than in that aspect wherein a man of brains is, on pain of dismissal from service, required to think and write down to the level of an inferior, and to give up every healthy and manly opinion he thought fit to cherish and propagate. May the Lord preserve all noble hearted men from drudgery so debasing!

One good thing effected by the "change of base" on the part of the *Chronicle* —or the base change—(we suppose either form of expression will do)— is the bringing of Archbishop Connolly into the front ranks of the Confederates. If the *Chronicle* had remained unchanged, it is more than probable that His Grace would have kept his thoughts within his Archiepiscopal Palace. But we would rather see a Richmond of his stamp in the field, where there is such an immense army of Catholics to be led and encouraged, than a paper ten times more influential than the *Chronicle* is now likely to be.

ANOTHER CANADIAN OPINION OF MR PALMER—THE SO-CALLED "MASTER OF THE SITUATION."

We copy from the *Montreal Gazette* of the 11th inst., the following telling article in reference to Col. Gray's resignation of his place in the Council on account of Mr. Attorney General Palmer's duplicity. What will our contemporaries in the other Provinces say when they learn that Mr. Palmer has the ineffable meanness to cling to the office of Attorney General after being quietly wedged out of the Executive Council? He may prate as long as he pleases, through the columns of the *Monitor*, about his retirement from the Council being a "voluntary act." Nobody believes him. He has destroyed any little reputation he ever had for veracity by his wretched excuse for his Toronto deceitful speech. If there were a *necessity* for him to resign his place in the Council, what necessity existed for him to retain his office as Attorney General? Could no other competent person be found to fill that office? If he were a man of commanding influence—if he were the boasted "master of the situation"—he would have resigned his place at the Council, his office as Attorney General, and have induced all his colleagues in the Council to do likewise, as soon as Col. Gray's resignation was received; and *then*, if he had any influence, he might, with some propriety, be called upon to reconstruct or re-form the Government. But it was evident he had no influence—he had to succumb to such brilliant men as the Hons. James McLaren, James Yeo, Dr. Kaye, &c., and he is now THEIR servant, *for the sake of a miserable salary*, without enjoying the small honour of taking part in their *wise* deliberations! Such political degradation was never known in this Colony, and we hope, for the character of our people, will never be repeated. We do not envy Mr. Palmer the paltry salary of the Attorney General's office—HE POCKETED THE SAME SALARY—(and we defy him to contradict this fact)—whilst Mr. Brecken nominally held the office; but we advise him, that when we are in possession of these and other facts, which we shall disclose at some future day, he makes a sad mistake in charging his political opponents with mercenary motives. We shall let him pass for the present. The *Montreal Gazette*, which is free from our local influences and feelings, treats him with much more severity than we should be disposed to do;—

"We republish elsewhere some correspondence between Colonel Gray of P. E. Island and Lieut. Governor Dundas. The gallant Colonel was, at the time of the recent Intercolonial Conferences, First Minister of the Crown in that Island Colony, and as such was a delegate at the Conferences. With him came six others, his Colony having by far the largest representation of any in the Conference according to population. Among those delegates, also, were Mr. Coles, leader of the opposition and Mr Palmer, the Attorney General. Mr. Coles was known to have grumbled somewhat about the arrangements made, but Mr. Palmer, if he grumbled, did so very privately indeed. He came to Montreal, and went to Ottawa and Toronto, accepting fetes and hospitality as one of the framers of a scheme of Intercolonial Union. At Montreal he affixed his name to the protocol of conference. At Toronto he made a speech in favor of Union. What was his colleagues' surprise then to find, on their return, that he had been writing letters to the Colony inimical to the very cause which he had pretended here to support! On reaching the Island, it was found that the fears of the people—more especially of the petty politicians, who air their wisdom in the little local Legislature—of absorption and diminished importance in a greater state was producing a good deal of opposition to the scheme. Forthwith he set to work to fan that flame, to curry favor with the people. Colonel Gray felt he could no longer act with a colleague so faithless—and, strange to say, Lieut. Governor Dundas accepted his Premier's resignation, and kept the Attorney General in office, favoring the opponents of the scheme, and giving no moral aid to his friends, such as the Imperial authorities have given and evidently desire should be given. Mr. Palmer is not a great man; he would probably be extinguished in a Confederate Parliament. His chances of office would be very small. Hence he clings to the little importance and emoluments he now possesses, and takes sweet council with the little great men who are foremost in purely parish politics. But one might pardon that, if he had behaved like a gentleman, and not like a sneak. We are not surprised that an old soldier should indignantly refuse to sit at the same Council Board with such a scurvy fellow; we do wonder that an officer of the Imperial Government, like Mr. Dundas, should throw the reins of office into such a man's hands. Can it be possible that he is also actuated by fear of loss of employment should Federation come? Mr. Pope, the Provincial Secretary, a man of learning, information and character, follows his chief out of the government, we believe. We should have expected as much from him. Assuredly, after this affair, Mr. Palmer will not be esteemed nice company for any gentleman.

"For this petty island, with a population less than this one city, we can easily dispense with it. It really is not necessary to our union; but when it finds itself shut out from the neighbouring colonial markets by hostile tariffs, and placed in a condition of perfect isolation — when it finds in the future, as in the past, individual influence too strong for its statesmen to overcome, in the matter of the obnoxious land tenure, and its people fleeing to other colonies to enjoy their progress and prosperity—it will, perhaps, find that the contemptible littleness of view which has made such a man as Mr. Palmer its champion and Premier, and so prevented it from uniting its fortunes with the other Colonies, was a thing bitterly to be regretted."

ARCHBISHOP CONNOLLY'S LETTER.

Our readers will be pleased to find on our first page a letter from His Grace the Archbishop of Halifax on the great question of Confederation. The letter refers, in the first place, to the mischievous Fenian movement, which some reckless vagabonds in the United States have set on foot, alleging, as their object, the overthrow of British supremacy in Ireland; but no one doubts that their real aim is to indulge in plunder and rapine in the British American Colonies. The Archbishop, as the head of the Catholic Church in Nova Scotia, very properly condemns the designs of the Fenians, and in doing so he has only followed the example of many other distinguished prelates of the same church on both sides of the Atlantic. Orange bigots who say the Catholic Church is disloyal to the British Crown, are well answered when we point to the noble attitude taken by the heads of that Church in support of British sovereignty, and in condemnation of treason.

But the letter of his Grace is especially important to us, who have no reason to be alarmed at the progress of Fenianism, from the clear and unequivocal testimony it gives in support of the great question of Confederation. Nothing could be more opportune than Dr. Connolly's letter after Mr. Cardwell's despatch. He argues the question in the most persuasive style, and in the calmest temper, with all the aids which profound scholarship and eminent ability could supply. No one can suspect *his* motives—no one can allege that *he* is actuated by ambitious aims—no one can assert that *he* has been deluded by Canadian sophistry, or dazzled by Canadian gold—or that the Confederacy can offer anything more alluring to *him* than the high position which he holds as a Prince of the Catholic Church. Endowed with such a character, moral, religious and intellectual, and holding such a position, his clear and forcible arguments cannot fail to have immense weight with all classes in the community. No one can believe that he would recommend a project, such as that under consideration, unless he knew, in his inmost soul, that it would be eminently advantageous to our now scattered colonial communities. His open declarations on behalf of Union are opportune, too, as they will relieve the doubt which has, for some time, been casting its dark shadow on the minds of the Irish Catholic people of this Colony, which has made them fear that the Union now proposed would be somewhat similar to the Union of England and Ireland. The Colonial Union does not bear the faintest resemblance to the Irish Union. His Grace of Halifax well knows this, and reassures his Catholic fellow countrymen from Ireland, by urging them to support the plan of Confederation.

At one of the public meetings lately held in one of the country districts, the question was put: "Are the Clergy of the Island in favor of Confederation?" A Catholic member of Parliament, who was present, undertook to answer, in the most positive manner, by saying that the Clergy of *his* Church were not in favor of it. We know the very reverse to be the fact. The Catholic Hierarchy and Clergy of Lower and Upper Canada, with whom we had many opportunities of speaking on the subject, are, without scarcely an exception, strongly in favor of Confederation,—the Hierarchy and Clergy of the Catholic Church in New Brunswick are favorable to it; and the Letter of the Archbishop of Halifax may be taken as a safe indication of the minds of the Catholic Clergy of Nova Scotia. With regard to this Island, we believe—indeed, we know—the Priesthood generally are in favor of the measure; and we trust we are not indiscreet in saying that his Lordship the Bishop of Charlottetown looks upon it in such a light as the most ardent advocate of Confederacy could wish him to do. So much for the Catholic Clergy in connection with the question of Confederation. The views of the Protestant Clergy may be easily gathered from the fact, that all the religious papers in the Lower Provinces, with the exception of the *Protestant* in this City, supporting denominational interests and opinions—Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Episcopalian—are all earnestly advocating Confederation. So that he who says the Clergy of *any* denomination are opposed to the contemplated Union asserts that which is not the fact.

CONFEDERATION IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF KING'S COUNTY.

(*Continued and concluded from last week.*)

THE PUBLIC MEETING AT MORELL.

The fourth meeting held by Mr. Whelan amongst his constituents, that at Morell, was the one most numerously attended. Notwithstanding that the weather was extremely cold, and the travelling very rough, Mr. John Phelan's commodious house, which was selected as the place of meeting, was crowded in all parts to its utmost capacity. Mr. Whelan arrived at the meeting about mid-day, on Friday, the 20th inst., and was heartily welcomed by all his constituents there assembled. Amongst those present was the Rev. P. McPhee, the good and popular missionary priest of the parishes of St. Andrew's and St. Peter's, and the Rev. Henry Crawford, the much esteemed Presbyterian Minister of St. Peter's West; and we hope we may be permitted to say that both those clergymen are earnest advocates of Confederation. Our indefatigable friend Stephen Swabey, Esqr., was also there, having come with his brother-in-law, William Swabey, Esqr., of Mount Stewart, solely for the purpose of attending the meeting. He was, whenever an opportunity offered, always ready as the champion of Union. It was such a meeting — embracing as it did every shade of religious belief, and including every man of note or influence in that section of the district, and all expressing themselves in favour of Confederation—as might well make Mr. Whelan proud of his position.

Mr. W. having organized the meeting by requesting that J. E. W. Alleyne, Esqr., J. P. of Lot 38, should be called to the chair, that gentleman promptly acceded to the request, and in a short but well conceived speech, declared the object of the meeting — that of affording Mr. Whelan an opportunity of expressing his opinions on Confederation, and he (the chairman) gave in his own unqualified adhesion to the measure. Mr. Whelan then addressed his constituents for about two hours, (being frequently cheered in the course of his speech), on nearly all the prominent topics embraced in the plan of Confederation, viz: taxation, revenue, free trade, intercolonial railway, defence, and contrasted all the privileges which might be enjoyed by a free British American nation under the protection of Great Britain, with the disadvantages which would inevitably accrue from connection with the United States, which anti-Unionists were advocating as an alternative. He answered the objections respecting our having to come under the same tariff as that which now obtains in Canada; if we did, we would not be worse off than the other Provinces; but practically the Canadian tariff, he showed, was scarcely higher than that to which any one of the Maritime Provinces is subject, when specific duties are taken into account and contrasted, and articles exempt from all duties likewise considered and contrasted. He dwelt at considerable length on the question of representation in the central Parliament, and showed that Prince Edward Island would have fully its share of representation, according to the principle agreed to before the Quebec Conference had taken place.

There was no report of the speeches taken at any of the meetings, and therefore we will not attempt to give even an outline. When Mr. Whelan closed his address, which he did with every manifestation of applause on the part of the meeting, Mr. Clark again spoke in opposition to the proposed Confederation, confining his remarks almost exclusively to the financial part of the project. J. B. Cox, Esq., followed Mr. Clark, in opposition to him, and as a strong advocate of Union. His speech was well received, and it was evident to him that the general feeling of the meeting inclined in the same direction.—Stephen Swabey, Esq., by request of the meeting, also made a very excellent speech in favour of Confederation; after which the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—

Moved by Mr. Dennis Hogan; seconded by Mr. Edward Alleyne:—

Resolved, That the Electors of this portion of the Second District of King's County, having heard with satisfaction the explanations offered by their trustworthy Representative, the Hon. Edward Whelan, touching the great question of the Federation of the British American Provinces, confidently hope that if the measure be accomplished it will prove advantageous to the interests of the several Provinces interested therein; but this meeting are, at the same time, of opinion that there should be no final legislation thereon until the well understood opinions of the people can be made known at a General Election.

A vote of thanks having been given to Mr. Alleyne, as Chairman, and suitably acknowledged by him, the Meeting broke up.

MEETING AT ST. ANDREW'S.

Mr. Whelan held his fifth and last Meeting at Carey's, St. Andrew's, on the same evening, Friday, the 20th. William Swabey, Esq., J. P., was appointed Chairman. After a lengthy explanation of the principles of Confederation from Mr. Whelan, and the usual opposition from Mr. Clark—(who was singularly unfortunate in not being able to get any person to assist him at any of the meetings)—the following resolution was adopted unanimously, in spite of the most earnest efforts made by Mr. Clarke to defeat it:—

Moved by Mr. James Bambrick; seconded by Mr. —— McGilvray:—

Resolved, That this meeting, having had explained to them the principles of Confederation by their Representative, have no reason to believe that that measure would prove disadvantageous to the interests of the country, when advocated by a person so entitled to their confidence; but they believe that sufficient time ought to be given to the inhabitants of this Island to make themselves acquainted as far as possible with the subject in all its relations; and that no final decision should be taken upon it until an appeal be made to the country.

The usual cheers and vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings of the Meeting.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The Letter Bags and a portion of the newspapers by the English Mail, which arrived at Halifax at the beginning of the week, reached here at a late hour on Wednesday night last. So far as we have been able to learn, the European news is not of great importance. We are indebted to the *Islander* for the following extract from "Wilmer & Smith's European Times" of the 7th inst.

The year opens with a record of some serious calamities. One has occurred in Scotland, in the town of Dundee, where nineteen people have been killed and numbers seriously injured, from an indiscretion which the slightest reflection ought to have prevented, and the slightest precaution rendered impossible. A concert was about to be given under a church, and the room which was to have been the scene of the music is some ten or twelve feet below the level of the street, the entrance to which was through an iron gate, half of which was open. Through this aperture the crowd rushed with wild impetuosity, each person anxious to secure the best position. The other half of the gate was then thrown back, which increased the momentum, and a mass of people were remorselessly precipitated to the bottom of cellar, the bodies piled up several feet high. The scene, in the misery which it produced, is indescribable. Nothing can be imagined more unreasonable and thoughtless than a hurrying crowd. The work of death proceeded with fearful haste, as may be imagined, as the cries and groans of the dying and wounded were horrible to hear. The other disaster occurred in a remote part of the world—the Chinese seas—and perhaps no foresight could have prevented it. Her Majesty's ship 'Racehorse' was wrecked on the night of the 4th November, about five leagues southeast of Chefoo Cape, and about two miles from White Rock. When the ship struck, the sea was comparatively smooth, but the wind soon increased to a gale, swamped the boats to which the crew had fled for safety, and though some of the mariners betook themselves to the rigging in the hope of relief, the weather was so cold during the night that many of them dropped off into the water, and when the morning dawned, it was found that only nine persons had been saved—three officers and six men. Of course, this shipwreck will undergo investigation; but more than a hundred persons—officers, seamen, marines, engineers, stokers, and boys—who perished, will be beyond its reach. They fell victims to the tragic visitation.—On the 4th inst., during the process of blasting a coal-mine near Wigan, belonging to Mr. J. G. Morris, of Liverpool, eight men were buried. Assistance was procured with as little delay as possible; but before the requisite aid came, five of the men had ceased to exist. Three were rescued from the jaws of death by the foresight and intrepidity of those above ground, who descended at considerable peril to themselves to promote the good work. The loss of life in these mining explorations seems to increase with every succeeding year.

DEATH OF SIR ALEXANDER BANNERMAN.

The last English Mail brought intelligence of the death of the above named distinguished gentleman, which occurred in London at the close of the last month, after a few days illness of Bronchitis. We have before us a letter from his sorrowing widow, in which her Ladyship writes, with an aching heart, referring to the gentle and tranquil spirit with which her husband closed his earthly career. "He was very thankful," she says, "to be relieved from public work, and only wished for quiet in the evening of his days." Indeed, Sir Alexander had more than his fair share of public work, and no one could grudgingly object to his enjoyment of an honourable and tranquil leisure, at a period of life when his years would have entitled him to those privileges, even if his public services had not. He was the faithful servant of the people, and the advocate of progress and reform in Parliament for many years. He was no less faithful as the servant and representative of his Sovereign in three important dependencies of the Crown; and in this Colony, where he governed with unwavering integrity and impartiality, his name will be long affectionately remembered. That name is inseparably connected with our free institutions. We will not say we owe to Sir Alexander Bannerman Responsible Government and all its subsequent benefits, because he was the first Governor here to put the system in practice,—the merit of acquiring it is due to our own people for their energy and perseverance in demanding it; but if Sir Alexander had not been influenced by liberal principles—if he had been an obstinate, perverse old Tory like his predecessor, the introduction of Responsible Government might have been delayed so as seriously to affect the peace and prosperity of the country. He had the honour to introduce the system, and took care to see that it was fairly administered during his occupancy of the gubernatorial chair in this Island. His encouragement of local charities, and his patronage of educational and other cognate institutions, without reference to sect or creed, give to Sir Alexander Bannerman's memory a very strong claim on the grateful recollections of the people of this Island. He was the first truly Liberal Governor we ever had in the Colony. Sir Dominick Daly bravely followed in his footsteps in all public and private relations. Sir Dominick's successor is yet with us, and perhaps it would be premature to speak of him at this moment; but we feel that we are doing no injustice to the living when we breathe from our hearts a benison on the memory of the departed who was the first amongst us to set a good example in the art of governing—to shew that the ties which bind us to the Crown are not of that rude and irritating kind which only leave pain and discontent by their attrition,—but are merely silken bonds, such as unite the sisterhood and brotherhood of a great family circle.

Sir Alexander Bannerman had attained to a good old age — about eighty-two years — and in the ordinary course of nature, he could not have expected to live much longer. We hope his Royal Mistress will live long enough to have many more servants like him, who, by judgment, talent and good taste, will induce free and intelligent communities to believe that the much abused phrase of "loyalty to the Crown" involves no dry abstract considerations of *duty*, but that loyalty is a sentiment which appeals directly to the heart of every right thinking man in British America.

DEATH OF ABBE' FERLAND.

A great light has fallen from the literary firmament by the death of the most illustrious French Scholar and Author which British Ameaica possessed in the person of the Abbe Ferland. About three months ago we had the pleasure of making his acquaintance at Laval University, Quebec, and found him to be one of the most apparently light-hearted and joyous of all the distinguished Dignitaries of the Catholic Church who gave, at their University, in all their gor-