THE EXAMINER:

A Weekly Journal of Politics, Literature, and News.

"This is true Liberty, when Freeborn Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free."---Euripides.

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POETRY.

SUNBEAMS.

A baby sat on his mother's knee,
On the golden morn of a summer's day,
Clapping his tiny hands in glee,
As he watched the shifting sunbeams play.

A sunbeam glanced through the open door,
With its shimmering web of atoms fine,
And crept along on the sanded floor
In a glittering, glimmering, golden line.

The baby laughed in his wild delight,
And clutched at the quivering golden band;
But the sunbeam fled from his eager sight,
And naught remained in his dimpled hand.

For a cloud had swept o'er the summer sky,
And gathered the beam to its bosom gray,
And wrapped, in a mantle of sombre dye,
The glory and pride of the summer's day.

Thus cheated sore in his eager quest,
With a puzzled look that was sad to see,
He laid his head on his mother's breast,
And gazed in the dear face wistfully.

The cloud swept by and the beam returned;
But the weary child was slumbering now,
And heeded it not, though it glowed and burned
Like a crown of flame on his baby brow.

And I thought: Ah! babe, thou art not alone
In thy bootless quest for a fleeting toy;
For we all are babes, little wiser grown,
In our chase for some idle and transient joy.

We are grasping at sunbeams, day by day,
And get but our toil for our weary pains,
For ever some cloud it obscures the ray,
And naught in our sordid grasp remains.

But when the lures of our youth depart,
And our empty strivings are all forgot,
Then, down in some nook of the peaceful heart,
The sunbeam glows when we seek it not.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN UNION.

The London *Saturday Review* of the 26th ultimo, contains the following article upon the proposed Union scheme:—

"The projected Union of the Provinces of British North America has made more rapid progress than could have been anticipated by any one who took account of the essential difficulties of the enterprise. It would be premature to speak of the scheme as a realized fact, because it still remains to secure a majority in each of five distinct legislative bodies, and to obtain — what will scarcely be refused — the sanction of the Home Government. The difficulties yet to be overcome are, indeed, much less than they appear at first sight. A project of legislation actively supported by Lord Palmerston, Mr. Gladstone, the Earl of Derby, and Mr. Disraeli, could scarcely fail to pass our House of Commons; and it is with an influence of very much the same kind that the Bill of Union will be introduced into each of the Colonial Parliaments. With great judgment the several provinces sent as their delegates to the Conference the leaders of the Opposition, in company with members of the Government, and the overwhelming influence which the Conference, as a body, must have been conscious of wielding, probably contributed in no small measure to the business-like character of their proceedings. A judicious silence has as yet been maintained as to the discussions of the Conference, but the scheme finally agreed upon has been made public, and the many speeches delivered at the cities where the delegates have been entertained have made it apparent enough that the unanimous agreement at last arrived at was not reached without much sturdy conflict and many necessary compromises. It is amusing to observe the anxiety with which the representatives of each Province strive to show that they bring at least their share of contribution to the common stock. If the Canadas have their vast area and important population to boast of, the maritime provinces plume themselves on their harbours and their ships; Newfoundland sets forth the value of her fisheries and her mines; New Brunswick has a vigorous trade to bring into the partnership; Nova Scotia adds coal to the products of the Confederacy; Prince Edward Island is to be the Isle of Wight of British North America; and even the Red River settlements, to which a prospective privilege of joining the Union is held out, find themselves represented by a native, who thinks them the most eligible places in the world for colonization, if only the Hudson's Bay Government were changed.

"That thirty-three chosen representatives of different interests, in various provinces, should have come to a unanimous agreement on a scheme of union, after a discussion of two or three weeks, is itself some evidence that the project was not started before the time was ripe for it, and that the leaders in the movement had the sense to compromise many contested points. Upper Canada was by no means disposed to spend money on the construction of the Intercolonial Railway which is to bind together the members of the Federation, but it is made an essential element of the arrangement that this extension of the existing lines is to be one of the first works of the United Colonies. Without this pledge it would have been hopeless to seek the co-operation of the maritime provinces. With it, scarcely any terms would have come amiss to them. The extent to which the Union should be carried seems to have been one of the main subjects of controversy. The eager British colonists of the West would gladly have seen the whole country absolutely merged — as England, Ireland and Scotland are — in a close legislative union; but local prejudices are strong in more than one of the colonies, and the substantial distinctions of religion, race and language would have enlisted almost every man in Lower Canada in opposition to a measure which would have left them comparatively powerless. It became essential, therefore, to limit the Union to some kind of federation which should leave religion, education, and, to a great extent, the administration of civil justice, under the direction of local governments. But the warning of the great American schism was sufficient to exclude any imitation of the institutions of the United States. Instead of entrusting to a central government certain specified powers, and reserving to the component States all other attributes of sovereignty, by a proposal is to allot to the local governments their special subjects of jurisdiction, and to vest what may be called the residual sovereignty in the Federal authorities. In such a way it is hoped that the risk of a disruption like that which has rent the United States may be altogether obviated, while at the same time local independence will be sufficiently respected to satisfy the narrowest provincial feeling. The independence of the Bench is to be preserved, as in England, by making the judges practically irremoveable; and internal free trade will be secured by vesting the power of indirect taxation exclusively in the central legislature. The whole frame of the Constitution prepared by the Conference bears testimony to the essentially loyal and British feeling which is interwoven with the patriotism of the North American colonies. The document commences with an express acknowledgment that the prosperity of British North America will be promoted by a Federal Union under the Crown of Great Britain; and the due influence of the home authorities will be maintained by the appointment of the Governor General, and by a similar veto to that which is now exercised over the acts of the several provincial parliaments. Indirectly, the Union promises to cement still more closely the interests and feelings of Great Britain and her magnificent colonies. In their present divided state, the seperate provinces of British North America can scarcely take adequate measures for their own defence; and the extreme sensitiveness which they have shown to any reproaches on the subject has been in a great measure due to their own conviction that they had borne less than their share of the burden of placing themselves in a position of security by the side of neighbors as strong and as unscrupulous as the United States. The concentration of all authority in military matters in the hands of a Government which will preside over nearly 4,000,000 of subjects will greatly alter their position for the better; and while all the leading statesmen who have taken part in the movement assume (as they may justly and fairly do) that England will not be wanting in the hour of danger, they are equally explicit in their avowals that more serious efforts may be expected from such a nation as they aspire to form than any of the separate provinces have yet had the determination to make. Little as it appears on the surface, there can be no doubt that the formidable growth of the military power of their neighbors has been one of the main inducements to the movement, and it may be confidently expected that the consciousness of increased national importance will stimulate the people of British North America to exertions which, in their position as separate colonies, seemed too much for their spirit or their strength. Perhaps the only serious opposition which the project is likely to meet with is that of a section of the French party in Lower Canada. As, however, the leader of this party, Mr. Cartier, is himself, if not the originator, at least one of the most energetic supporters of the scheme of union, it is almost impossible that any dissentient fragment of his followers can effectually impede the completion of the measure; and the marked consideration which is shown for the inhabitants of the French colony throughout the Report of the Conference can scarcely fail to diminish the suspicion with which some of them have perhaps naturally regarded the project. In fact, the separation of the two Canadas, as far as all local matters are concerned, will remove many subjects of difference in such matters as education, which were beginning to threaten serious difficulties in the Canadian Legislature.

"The political constitution of the new nation is avowedly built upon the British model as nearly as circumstances would allow. The Upper House is to be nominated by the Crown, to consist of twenty-four members from Upper Canada, and the same number from Lower Canada, and from the three maritime provinces combined—Newfoundland being represented by four additional members. The representation of the House of Commons is to be apportioned among the provinces according to their relative populations, to be readjusted at each decennial census, Lower Canada always sending the fixed number of 65 members. The electoral districts and qualification are left to be determined by the local legislatures of each of the component provinces. The seat of the General Government is to be at Ottawa, subject to any change which may be made under the authority of the Crown. What at first was expected to prove one of the greatest difficulties — the settlement of the financial basis on which the colonies were to unite—has been easily surmounted. The actual burden of existing debts has proved on examination to be nearly proportional to the populations of the different provinces, and some small inequalities which remained are proposed to be redressed by a trifling annual payment to one or two of the lesser colonies.

"Thus far the movement has prospered beyond expectation. A common interest well understood on all sides has carried the enterprise through without the means which were found necessary to bring about the Scotch and Irish Unions, and there is no reason to doubt that the members of the new Federation will derive the same advantages from their closer connexion which have resulted from the legislative amalgamation of our own islands. Commercial prosperity and military strength must be increased by a combination which will probably foster, at the same time, a national pride in their own American State, and a cordial understanding with the country which they still love to designate as home.

SPIRIT OF THE LONDON PRESS.

The London *Herald* refers to the recent address of President Davis to the Southern Congress, and points out the pretences under which the British Government has maintained a one sided neutrality far more in favour of the North than that of its opponents:—

"The objection, then, is confined to our dealings with the North, and is consequently most unfair and one-sided. But it is not the first time that such a cry has been raised in this country. Did the old United States try to over-reach us in a boundary dispute or any other matter, immediately we were told not to resent this trickery for fear of inflaming their passions. We are apt to forget that the best way to foment excesses is to give them full scope, and that by our unseasonable display of gentleness, mistaken for timidity, we were holding out encouragement to future outrage. Lord Palmerston and other British statesmen, we are convinced, are not more blind to this evil tendency than is President Davis himself. But unhappily for themselves, and for their fair fame with posterity, they have by their side aspiring colleagues, who, not unwilling to supplant their veteran leader, are continually bidding for the support of the Manchester school. Hence it follows that a statesman, naturally bold and straightforward, is constantly falling under imputations of cowardice and insincerity."

The *Standard* refers to the impertinent despatch of Mr. Watson Webb to the Government of Brazil, whose reasoning and language it does not think it necessary to attempt to criticise, especially in the matter of his outrageous and uncalled-for insults to England. Referring to the main point of the despatch it adds:—

"Mr. Webb assures Brazil that full apology and reparation shall be made. What does this mean? That the Florida shall be replaced in the harbour of Bahia, and the criminals dismissed from the service of the United States? If so, neutral nations may rest content that no similar outrage will occur in future. Or will the Federal Government keep the prize, reprimand her captor for excess of zeal, and then, as was done by Captain Wilkes — as soon as the matter is blown over reward and promote him? If so, it behoves the neutral Powers at large to interfere and exact a much more ample atonement. So long as the Federal Government is allowed to retain the fruits of wrong-doing, on the cheap condition of apologising for the offence, so long offences will be of daily occurrence; and while officers feel that they may safely venture on the most outrageous violations of public law, sure of reward if they succeed, and certain at worst to incur no more serious penalty than a formal reprimand, sweetened by the assurance of substantial approbation, the flag of the United States will be the piratical insolence and contemptuous defiance of the Sovereign rights of neutral Powers. If outrages of this kind are to be stopped they must be punished; a substantial, not a verbal, explanation must be exacted; and both the offenders and their Government must be taught that they will have to give up their ill-gotten spoil, and will not be permitted on any terms to take advantage of their own wrong."

With reference to the aspect of the United States towards other countries, the *Telegraph* says:—

"We find Mr. Webb, the Federal Minister in Brazil, so far misrepresenting our neutrality as to ascribe it to cowardice; and we see the most conspicuous paper in New York—the quickest, nimblest, shiftiest, dirtiest weather-cock of opinion — again advocating the old nefarious plan of a reconciliation between the belligerents based upon the simple programme of the Munroe doctrine. In a word, the *New York Herald* is war to the knife against France in Mexico, and against England in the new confederation States, which bid fair to avoid the errors and crimes that have ruined the great Republic of the West. The gentlemen who complain of our neutrality are perpetually offering us provocation to depart from it. They threaten Brazil, they threaten France, they threaten England; they plainly tell us that, as soon as occasion serves, non-intervention itself will be regarded as a crime. But they appear to forget the obvious fact that the way to avoid the menaced war might be to abandon the misconstrued neutrality. Their reasoning, if reasoning it be, would point directly to active interference on the part of European Powers; and before the argument is pushed too far, they would do well to reflect upon its consequences."

In spite of its Republican views, the *Star* cannot but join in the condemnation of Mr. Webb's despatch:—

"No sensible Englishman will think of entertaining an angry feeling towards the United States Government because of this little escapade on the part of its *enfant terrible*. But we feel really grieved that the two or three generous and magnanimous sentences in which Mr. Webb tenders to Brazil a full reparation for the wrong done to her should be marred and disfigured by the long, intemperate, and uncalled for invective in which he has wrapped them up. After all, in the matter of diplomacy, King Log is much preferable to King Stork. Our foreign representatives have happily for us, more often belonged to the mild class represented by the former symbol. No human sagacity could have managed to keep us out of the perpetual hot water if we had many diplomatists endowed by Mr. Webb's energy of invective and misdirected zeal for application. We are already quite satisfied that the American Government may adopt with perfect justice the reverse of Charles the Second's famous plea, and declare that, in tendering reparation to Brazil, the act was its own, and the words were its Minister's.

THE WONDERFUL LEVEE AT LAHORE.

On the 18th of October Sir John Lawrence "held a Durbar at Lahore." The meaning of this simple announcement was that the Queen of England had, by her representative and deputy the Viceroy of India, been holding a levee in Central Asia, and had received the homage of six hundred Princes assembled from remote regions in her honor. Perhaps, in the narratives of Froissart we might find a description or two yielding some idea of the spectacles which Royal meetings presented before the splendor of semi-barbarism had been put aside by advancing civilization. But we may as well say at once that Europe never did, and never could, furnish such a show as that at Lahore. Only in the East are the distinctions of long descent and interminable history combined with the primitive habits of half-civilized races. Only there is barbarism noble and magnificent. These Chiefs and Princes, who, at the invitation of the British Viceroy, went up to Lahore, might be deemed uncivilized if measured by a modern standard; but one of them represented a line of Kings who, according to the firm belief of the country, have reigned in the same dominions for ten thousand years, and yet he only came seventeenth in order of precedence. These men were all dignified, proud, and powerful; and many of them so independent that they never deigned to attend such a levee before. The Punjab is the north-westermost province of British India. So far does it penetrate into Asia that a single step over the border will take you into independent Tartary. It is conterminous with the rudest parts of China and the wilds of Affghanistan. On these frontiers reside Chieftains amenable to little authority save that of opinion—Monarchs with considerable territories or Princes with patriarchal power. In the province itself there is an aristocracy of no mean quality, whose allegiance has passed from a native Sovereign to the Queen of this realm. To this province, as large and as populous as a European kingdom, Sir John repaired in the course of a progress through the Presidency, and there invited all the Chiefs within range to a high Durbar. Six hundred and four obeyed the summons, including Kings under our protection, Princes of the Hills, military Lords from the Affghan border, and the high nobility of the Punjab itself. No native Monarch had ever convoked such a Court. The Mogul Sovereigns could not have thus commanded the Punjab: Runjeet Singh, the great ruler of the Punjab, could not have controlled the frontier Princes. But on this occasion none were so high or so low as to neglect the call. Partly from the local renown of Sir John Lawrence, but partly also from the enhanced and growing reputation of the British rule, all concurred in tendering the compliment conveyed by the ceremony, even the old and infirm being brought to the rendezvous. The Durbar was held in magnificent tents pitched on a smooth plain outside the walls of Lahore. The commencement of the ceremony was expected at nine in the morning, but the smaller Chiefs began to arrive at seven, and before half-past eight the highest of the assembly were in their places. In the East magnificence of costume is still expected, and the dresses of these Asiatic Princes might be chronicled like the toilets of our Royal Drawing-rooms. The Rajah of Jheend was dressed in pure white muslin, gleaming all over with diamonds and emeralds, and a yellow turban. The Maharajah of Putteala, a very important personage, wore a dress of rich lavender silk, but so overlaid with emeralds and pearls that the colour could hardly be distinguished. The Maharajah of Cashmere, and his son, a boy of ten, were in white, with red and yellow turbans, emeralds, and diamonds. One Chief, of great stature, appeared in black and gold with a green turban; another showed his true Sikh extraction by a robe of pure yellow. The characters and histories of these Princes were as striking and varied as their apparel. There were the two high Priests of the Sikh nation, lineal descendants of the very Prophet who founded the State. There was the very Sikh nobleman who, as the best horseman of his race, had led the charge against us at Chillianwallah. There was the noble Persian of the Kussilbash tribe who had rescued the English prisoners from Cabul. There was a little Nabob, only seven years old, who behaved with as much intelligence and composure as the most experienced ruler. One Chieftain present was noted as the handsomest man in the North-West, another as the wittiest, a third as the heaviest—who was so large, indeed, that the arms of his chair had to be cut off before he could be seated. Not a State, not a dynasty, not a principality, not an office, not a dignity remained unrepresented in that Durbar. And who were they who received the reverence of this unparalleled assembly? The two first representatives of the Sovereign of India had been Irish lads at a school at Londonderry; the next was a Bluecoat boy at Christ's Hospital less than thirty years ago. One of these, however, now, in the name of his Queen, governed the whole of India more completely and absolutely than it ever had been governed by the Great Moguls; and as the entire meeting rose in his honour he addressed the Chiefs in their own language with the ease and fluency of a native. Never up to this time had such a proceeding been recorded. He told them how, when he lately stood in the presence of the Queen of England, she had inculcated on him the duty of promoting their welfare. He reminded them of the solid advantages which they had actually derived from the English rule, and acknowledged the devotion by which in the hour of our peril they had repaid the obligation. He told them to educate their children in sound learning, and to acquaint themselves with the true policy and intentions of their rulers, so that they might discern and recognize the character of our Government. Then the whole six hundred were presented to him one by one. Princes and their heirs-apparent, great Ministers of State, Rajahs and Nabobs, spiritual Potentates and Military Chiefs.

Two battalions of British infantry, with a few squadrons of cavalry, sufficed to represent the military power of that Empire to which all this reverence had been paid; and one of these regiments conduced in no slight degree to the gratification of the nobles assembled. Whether from fastidiousness of taste or otherwise it might be dangerous to enquire, but of all European music the Indian ear loves that of the Scottish bagpipe alone, and when the pipers of the 93d were ordered out to play, the gratification of Her Majesty's princely vassals was complete. Three times were the pipes brought up and played round the great tent to the delight of the company; and the Maharajah of Cashmere, we are informed, has sent an embassy to Sealkote for the express purpose of getting instruction on the instrument from the Highland corps quartered there, while another Hill Chieftain has bespoken the genuine article direct from Edinburgh. A single morning witnessed the beginning and conclusion of this extraordinary scene, but if its character and import are duly considered it will take rank with any ceremony of ancient or modern times.—*London Times.*

THE BATTLE AT FRANKLIN.

(From the Richmond Examiner.)

An action has been fought at Franklin, the town of Williamson county, in Tennessee, between the retreating Federal army under Schofield and Thomas, and the advancing Confederate army under Hood. No account of it has been received from the Confederate General, or will be received for many days. But we do not need them to ascertain the truth. The Federal despatches, both official and unofficial, are very satisfying. We want none better.—Although every one of them claims a great victory to the Federal arms; although one telegraphist calls it the 'prettiest victory of war;' although another describes it as the 'cleanest victory of the war;' although Schofield brags about the repulse of the Rebels, it is perfectly evident to every reader who will look at certain facts which they are all obliged to, by the necessity of things, to make known, that the Federal army was defeated, that the Confederate army was victorious, that the enemy was saved from disaster by the advent of night, and has found safety only in the fortifications of Nashville. It is easy to say victory, it is easy to say that the Rebels were repulsed, it is easy to imagine numbers, for it is easy to lie. But when we come to examine the narrative apart from the words in which it is dressed, what is the positive outline? First of all, we must remember that these despatch writers have represented the Confederate army to have been repulsed at every step on its straight road Northward from Florence. It was whipped at Ducatur, beaten at Columbia, and it is broken up at Franklin.

Schofield begins the tale in an official despatch, dated December 1st, as are all the other despatches. According to him, the 'Rebels were repulsed with the loss of five or six thousand,' while the 'Union loss was only about one-fourth of that number.' It is suspicious that this commander knows the numerical loss of his adversary, yet is so vague about his own. Did he count the Confederate dead? Then why did he not count his own? To ascertain an enemy's loss it is necessary to remain the master of the field. Did he remain the master of the field and town of Franklin? These interesting questions are answered only by unofficial narrators. According to all their accounts, without discrepancy, the Confederate army made its appearance in front of the Federal lines so late as 4 o'clock in the afternoon. At an hour and a half after that time it was quite dark, and they all concur that the engagement was concluded by night. The whole action must have taken place in this hour and a half.

They say that the Confederates made eleven charges, were eleven times completely and terribly repulsed, and finally, that their lines were flanked, doubled on the centre, and their whole army utterly defeated. And all this took place in an hour and a half. But then, while these statements must necessarily be exaggerations, they might be considered essentially true but for the sequel of the narrative. What is that sequel? That Hood fled from the field, or even retreated? That the Federal cavalry was 'in hot pursuit,' cutting up the remnant of his 'scattered and disorganized followers?' None of these stereotyped phrases do we find in the sequel. What we do find cannot be read without a start. All the despatches agree in a statement to this effect:—'The battle being ended, *our army retired from Franklin*, and now holds a strong position within three miles of Nashville.'

Here is an extraordinary thing! Here is a victorious army, occupying its chosen ground, its fortifications, its town full of Hospitals and stores, with railroads in its rear, which defeats with great slaughter, for one hour and a half, another army, and then retreats right away as soon as it grows dark, leaving town and fortifications, and does not stop in that retreat until it reaches the capital. No delay occurs, no flanking, no crawling around the victor's position, like that done by Grant or Sherman, is ascribed to Hood. What, then, was the cause of that immediate retreat in the night? Depend upon it the victory was a defeat. The Federal army could not maintain its position. It did not beat off the Confederate attack, as it was said, but was itself beaten, and the advent of night, which put an end to the conflict and gave a chance for retreat, was the salvation of the Federal army.

But what follows renders the claim to the laure's more singular. The Confederate army, which was beaten with a loss of five or six thousand, was not only unpursued, *but did itself pursue!* It was not even content with getting the town. It would not be still there to 'reorganize its shattered wings,' but came along after the flying victors, 'skirmishing' with them all the way to Nashville. The victorious retreaters burned the bridge over the Harpeth, but the advancing defeated crossed the river. The whole distance between Franklin and Nashville was traversed by both hosts in one night. Next day finds the Federal army drawn up within three miles of the last named city. Then it must have been within the fortifications of the city, for no fortifications are now built at a less distance.

Skirmishing goes on within five miles of Nashville, at the time the despatches close. Then Hood's army is there confronting that of Thomas. Then these are the admitted facts. The Confederate army reaches Franklin at four o'clock, and attacks immediately; in an hour and a half darkness comes and ends the battle. The Federal army gets out of Franklin forthwith, and marches all night at such a rate that it reaches Nashville next morning. The Confederates pursue. Now, if this is the story of a Federal victory, Heaven send them always such, and grant perpetual defeat to the Confederate arms.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Boston papers of a late date contain Mr. Lincoln's Message. It is brief—for a President's Message. He states that the public debt of the United States, on the 1st of July, was $1,740,690,489. In reference to the Confederates at sea, he says:—

"It is possible, that if it were a new and open question, the maritime powers, with the light they now enjoy, would not concede the privileges of a naval belligerent to the insurgents of the United States, destitute as they are and always have been, equally, of ships of war and of ports and harbors. Disloyal emissaries have been neither less assiduous nor more successful during the last year than they were before that time in their efforts, under favor of that privilege, to embroil our country in foreign wars. The desire and determination of the government of the maritime States to defeat that design, are believed to be as sincere, and cannot be more earnest, than our own. Nevertheless, unforeseen political difficulties have arisen especially in Brazilian and British ports, and on the northern boundary of the United States, which have required, and are likely to continue to require the practice of constant vigilance and a just and conciliating spirit on the part of the United States, as well as of the nations concerned and their governments.

In regard to the Canadian raids and their effects, Mr. Lincoln says:—

In view of the uncertainty of life and property in the region adjacent to the Canadian border, by reason of assaults of desperadoes, committed by inimical and desperate persons who are harbored there, it has been thought proper to give notice that after the expiration of six months—the period constitutionally stipulated in the existing arrangement with Great Britain—the United States must hold themselves at liberty to increase their naval armament on the Lakes, if they shall find that proceeding necessary; and the condition of the border will necessarily come into consideration in connection with the question of continuing or modifying the right of transit from Canada through the United States, as well as the regulation of imports which were temporarily established by the Reciprocity Treaty of the 5th of June, 1854. I desire, however, to be understood, while making this statement, that the colonial authorities of Canada are not deemed to be nationally unjust or unfriendly towards the United States, but on the contrary there is every reason to expect that, with the approval of the Imperial government, they will take the necessary measures to prevent new incursions across the border.

In discussing the peace question, Mr. Lincoln says:—

"On careful consideration of all the evidence accessible, it seems that no attempt at negotiation with the insurgent leader could result in any good. He would accept nothing short of the severance of the Union—precisely what we cannot and will not give. His declarations to this effect are explicit and oft repeated; he does not attempt to deceive us. He cannot voluntarily expect the Union, we cannot voluntarily yield it. Between him and us the issue is distinct, simple and inflexible. It is an issue which can only be tried by war and decided by victory. If we yield we are beaten; if the Southern people fail him, he is beaten. Either way it would be victory and defeat following war. What is true, however, of him who heads the insurgent cause, is not necessarily true of those who follow; although he cannot re-accept the Union, they can; some of them, we know already, desire peace and reunion. The number of such may increase. They can at any moment have peace simply by laying down their arms and submitting to the national authority under the constitution. After so much the government could not, if it would, maintain war against them; the loyal people would not sustain or allow it. If questions should remain, we should adjust them by peaceful means of legislation, conferences, courts, and votes; opposing only in the Constitutional channels."

In referring to the special and general pardons held out, many have availed themselves of them. Practically the door has been open to all who may wish to return. It is still open he says, but the time may come when the public duty shall demand that it be closed, and that the arms be more rigorous than heretofore.

He recommends Congress to pass an amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery, and as to his own position on slavery, he says:—

"As to slavery, I repeat the declaration I made a year ago, and that while I remain in my present position I shall not attempt to retract or modify the Emancipation Proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress. If the people should, by whatever mode or means, make it an executive duty to reinslave such persons, another, not I, must be their instrument to perform it. In stating a single condition of peace, I mean simply to say that the war will cease on the part of the government whenever it shall have ceased on the part of those who began it."

THE UNITED STATES DEBT.

The United States debt, to use the classic words of President Lincoln, is a "big thing." Since the war broke out the expenditures have been in round numbers somewhat more than a thousand millions of dollars a year, or about three millions of dollars a day. Of this amount they have raised about one third by taxes, and two thirds by loan. Some idea of the manner in which the debt is expanding may be arrived at by considering the rate at which the annual interest is increasing. For the year ending June 30, 1864, it was $53,685,421; for the current fiscal year Mr. Fessenden estimates it at $91,810,215, and for the year ending June 30, 1866, at $127,009,000. At the same rate of increase it will soon exceed the interest paid on the national debt of Great Britain, which is estimated to be about $132,000,000. But it is alleged that Mr. Fessenden's report does not cover the whole amount of indebtedness. For instance, he makes the estimated public debt, July 1, 1865, to be $2,223,064,677.51. But this, large as it is, is but an approximate and delusive estimate, for it means the debt actually paid and cancelled at that time, for which somebody holds, in some shape or other, the securities of the government. It does not include, in the first place, the balances due and ascertained, but which are unliquidated, simply from the want of funds in the treasury. It is stated that at this moment the arrearages of government, mostly to contractors, where the money is due and the sum ascertained, are over four hundred millions of dollars. And in the next place, it does not include the immense amount of claims which are in the process of maturing. And lastly, it does not include the State, county and municipal debts which already have swelled to a large aggregate.

Supposing then that the war should cease on the first day of July next, it is estimated that the debt would stand thus, or not less than the following:

Mr. Fessenden's estimate,	$2,223,064,677 51
Arrearages and unascertained claims, etc.,	700,000,000 00
State, Co., and Municipal debts, etc.,	350,000,000 00
	$3,273,064,677 51

But the war will not come to an end on the first day of July next, but the probabilities are that it will last to the close of Mr. Lincoln's administration, and the nation may esteem itself fortunate if the debt does not increase at the rate of five hundred millions of dollars annually. If so, we can estimate what the amount of debt will be in July, 1869, by adding the sum of $2,000,000,000 to the above amounts, making in all $5,223,064,677 51.

MORE INCENDIARY PLOTS—PLAN TO BURN ARSENALS AND MILITARY STORES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The Provost Marshall General to day issued the following circular:—

"Reliable information has been received that a large number of evil-disposed persons, consisting of rebel sympathizers, secessionists, marauders, and other outlaws, who have collected in Canada with a view to enter the commercial cities of the North, and particularly those on the Canadian frontier, with the ostensible purpose of seeking employment, but who are in reality intent upon the destruction of life and property, will shortly arrive in the United States.

All officers of this Bureau are instructed to place all persons suspected to be of this class under strict surveillance, and to arrest such as evidently belong to it. Provost Marshals will confer with the municipal authorities, with a view of preventing the mischief contemplated, and will aid the civil authorities in discovering those persons and causing their arrest. (Signed) JAMES B. FRY,
Provost Marshal General."

WAR MORE DESIRABLE THAN PEACE.

Says a correspondent of the Boston *Courier*:—"And pray why should we not have war? The President, in his annual message, tells us that in material resources, men and money, the country has advanced since the breaking out of the war. Mr. Seward, Mr. Chase, and the editor of the Boston *Journal* tell us that we were never so rich as we are to-day. The President also tells us that our debt, being held by our own people, is "an important branch of national though private property," and if this be true, it follows of course that the larger the debt the more property we possess. And lastly the clergy tell us that the war is elevating the moral and spiritual character of the people, and reviving the manly and heroic virtues which were decaying under the influence of peace. If all these things be true, the longer this war continues the better, for we shall all the time be growing richer, more populous, and more virtuous. The only misfortune in our lot would seem to be that we have had so many years of peace in times past, and that we have been so long under the delusion that peace was a more desirable condition than war."

OTTAWA THE CENTRE.

The following table exhibits the position of the City of Ottawa as regards the question of Confederation. The different degrees of longitude may be thus stated:—Fort Garry, 97° ; Toronto 79° 28' ; Kingston, 76° 30' ; Ottawa, 75° 30' ; Montreal, 73° 31' ; Quebec, 71° 16' ; Newfoundland, 55° 20'. The centre may be taken as 76° 10'.

The following table of distances gives further proof of the centrality of Ottawa in view of Confederation. Ottawa is distant from

Montreal, C. E.	100	miles.
Three Rivers, C. E.	175	"
Quebec, "	240	"
Saguenay, "	322	"
Chicoutami Port, C. E.	322	"
Fredericton, N. B.	455	"
St. John, "	480	"
Pictou Mines, N. S.	665	"
Halifax, "	612	"
St. John's, N. F.	1150	"
Kingston, C. W.	95	"
Port Hope, "	172	"
Toronto, "	233	"
London, "	334	"
Windsor, "	440	"
Sault St. Marie,	475	"
Lake Superior Mines,	660	"
Fort Garry,	1140	"
Red River,	1140	"

ADVERTISING AS A MORAL DUTY — A NEW VIEW OF THE SUBJECT.

Some years ago it was proposed by an American physician that members of the Faculty should advertise their remedies and modes of treating diseases in the newspapers. It was a bold and manly idea. It was scouted, however, by the profession generally, as *infra dig.* But is there any degradation in publicity? Is it not rather the great touchstone that vies pretensions and universalises the practical benefits of all valuable inventions and discoveries? Should not a profession that aims at the mitigation of suffering and the preservation of life make the means of attaining these grand objects known through the channel of information most accessible to all classes and conditions—the columns of the public press? If it declines to do so, the natural inference is, either that the desire of secrecy arises from a sordid, monopolising, egotistic spirit, or from a lack of faith in its own prescriptions.

Viewing the subject in this light, we may presume, Professor Holloway some twenty years ago overleaped the barriers which the profession had erected between itself and the public, and plunged fearlessly into the newspaper arena. He had discovered, or rather invented, after two years of research and experiments, two preparations which he believed to be specifics for nearly all the diseases of mankind; and as an indication of his confidence in them, and a proof of his philanthropic wish that, if really valuable, they should be accessible to the world, he advertised them wherever advertising media existed. This was the severest ordeal to which he could have submitted them *experimentum crucis.* He threw them at once, as it were, before the sick of all regions. He stated their properties, proclaimed what they would do, and staked reputation and fortune upon the issue. That issue has been all that he or the world could have desired. The rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, physicians, statesmen, monarchs, a nation of enlightened freemen, have sanctioned, used, and extolled them. They are *fixed facts* in medical history!

Is not this better than hiding light under a bushel? Is it not better than writing prescriptions in a dead language, and putting weights and quantities into hieroglyphics?

If anything is worth knowing, it is worthy of being universally known. So thinking, Holloway proclaimed the virtues of his medicines through the press; and fortune, fame, and the gratitude of millions have been his reward.—*Galveston News.*

We find the following in the Portland (Me.) *Advertiser* of a recent date, from which it would appear that the Yankees are eclipsed by Provincial enterprise:—

"Friction matches are now imported into the United States from New Brunswick, and sold in packages suitable for the retail trade, without being stamped or paying any tax under the internal revenue laws. The duty for importation is very much less than the stamp duty upon friction matches of domestic manufacture. The consequence is, that the imported matches are sold so low that manufacturers of matches in this country cannot compete in the market. Already at least three manufacturers of matches have removed from Maine to New Brunswick to carry on the business there. The Government thus loses almost all the benefit of the tax upon the manufacture and sale of these matches. This is done under section 169 of the Act of June 30, 1864; the importers putting the matches up in small packages, for the purpose of bringing themselves within the provisions of that section."

GUNBOATS ON THE LAKES.—The prohibition which England and the United States mutually imposed upon themselves at the close of the last war, to keep each not more than one revenue cutter on each of the lakes, is about to expire. In the month of October last, the Federal Government gave the requisite six months' notice of their intention to discontinue the arrangement. There will, therefore, be an end to the prohibition next April. Both parties to the agreement will then be at liberty to place a naval marine on the lakes. The Toronto Leader expresses an opinion, upon examination of all the bearings in the case, that there is no cause for England to regret the annulment of the arrangement, adding that:

"For some time past—for full three years—the obligation had been operating very unequally. The Americans have been building a suspicious class of vessels on the lakes during the last two or three seasons; vessels of a strength altogether beyond anything that the necessities of commerce require; vessels which might, without great difficulty, be converted into ships of war, and which appear to have been built with direct reference to this contingency. In this way, our neighbours have been getting an undue advantage over us, and one which they would not have obtained, if the prohibition against war vessels being placed on the lakes had not existed. And if, in this way, the spirit of the treaty has been encroached upon, its letter has latterly, we believe, not been fully respected. Under these circumstances, the best thing for us that could be done, and the fairest to both parties, is to put an end to the prohibition.

We find in Ayer's American Almanac, (now ready for delivery gratis, by W. R. Watson, Charlottetown, P. E. I.,) the remarkable statement that the temperature of the earth has not diminished more than 1-306th part of one degree Fahrenheit for 2000 years. To our enquiry how he could make such an assertion, Dr. Ayer writes us the following answer. "Hipparchus gives the exact record of an eclipse in his time. This enables us to measure with extreme accuracy the earths' diurnal revolutions since to any eclipse now. Diminution of its heat would by concentration, shorten its axis and consequently its time of revolution on its axis. The data show that this change has been only such as I state it, mathematically and indisputably true."—[New York Journal of Commerce.]

It is proposed to build an underground railway in New York, following the line of Broadway, so as to relieve that thoroughfare from the pressure now thrown upon it.