this assertion there may be much truth; nay, indeed, it may be altogether true; but, even admitting that it is so—of itself, it affords no reasonable grounds of objection, either to us or to any other of the Provinces, to the great Confederation platform. Canadian difficulties may prove to be Prince Edward Island's opportunity. (Cheers.) Let us refer to history, and we shall find that some of the greatest, the most momentous, the most beneficial changes which have occurred in the social condition and government of nations, have originated in events, apparently the least likely to produce the great and happy results to which, however, by a train of unforeseen consequences, they have directly led. Thus, for instance, the great Revolution in England—by which the overthrow of arbitrary and irresponsible kingly power was, forever, I trust, accomplished—is directly traceable to the simple fact of the great John Hampden's having refused to pay a tax of only twenty shillings, at which his estate had been rated, on account of what was called ship-money, but which was levied, independently of parliamentary sanction, solely by the power of the Crown. We may also, in like manner, see, by the records of history, that the rise of the great Republic of North America—at present the second power upon the earth—had its origin in the simple fact of the inhabitants of thirteen of the British American Plantations or Colonies having refused to pay stamp duties, or to purchase tea or any other articles on which duties were levied by the British Parliament, in which they had no representation. Yes, thus we see, in the history of nations, that, in events, seemingly at the time of their occurrence, trifling and unimportant, the greatest, the most eventful, and the most durable changes have often originated. And thus, future historians of British America, may and, I trust, will, have to refer the origin and progress of one of the greatest, and most powerful nations of the New World, aye, and perhaps of the whole earth, to the simple fact that the leading statesmen of Canada, in seeking for a solution of the perplexing difficulties experienced by them in their repeatedly baffled endeavours to give strength and stability to their own local government, volunteered a visit to our little Island, at the period of the sitting of the little Congress of the Maritime Provinces in our little capital; and to their having, at their own request, been courteously admitted, as honoured auditors, into the congress Chamber during the progress of the Conference, and to their having, further, been allowed therein to make some simple suggestions relative to the holding of another Congress elsewhere, of a similar character, but upon a broader basis, and with more comprehensive views.—(*To be continued.*)

COLONIAL CONFEDERATION MEETING.

In compliance with a requisition from the Citizens of Charlottetwn, the Hon. T. H. Haviland, Mayor of the City, convened a public meeting at the Court Room in the Colonial Building, on Friday Evening last, the 10th inst, for the purpose of discussing the question of a Union of the Colonies, on the basis of the Quebec Conference.

His Worship the Mayor was called to the Chair at half past six o'clock, p.m., supported on his right by John Morris, Esq., High Sheriff of Queen's County, and on his left by James Reddin, Esq., one of the City Council. After a few appropriate remarks from His Worship, explanatory of the object of the meeting; a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, because the same subject was about to be debated at the Temperance Hall, that same evening, under the auspices of the Debating Society. This motion was strongly opposed by several gentlemen present, on the ground that the discussion of such an important subject should not be confined to the restrictions of any private Society.

Hon. T. Heath Haviland, one of the delegates to the Quebec Conference, was then called upon to address the meeting, which he did, in a speech which occupied in delivery about two hours, and was listened to with more than ordinary attention. The Hon. gentleman entered fully into the subject and in the most lucid manner, explained all the principles of Confederation, as contained in the Report of the Quebec Conference, and answered all the objections that have been offered to that Report; but as his speech has been reported in full, the greater portion of which appears in this issue, we defer any further remarks upon it for the present.

The following letter from the Hon. Mr. Whelan, was then read:—

CHARLOTTETOWN, Feby. 10. 1865.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR :—

SIR,—I beg to thank you for your kindness in causing to be enclosed to me printed notices of the Public Meeting which many of my fellow citizens have respectfully requested your Worship to convene, for the purpose of enabling the Delegates to the Quebec Convention to explain to their fellow colonists the principles on which it has been proposed to base the Confederation of the Colonies — and which Public Meeting your Worship has announced will be held this evening.

As one of the Delegates, it would afford me great pleasure to respond to the call of my fellow citizens, and assist in explaining, as far as in my power, the principles which underlie the great question now before the public; but I deeply regret to say that I must forego this pleasure in consequence of the state of my health, which would render it not only painful but imprudent for me to speak in public at present.

Permit me, however, to avail myself of this opportunity of saying that there appears to be a most unwise and unnecessary alarm afflicting the minds of many worthy persons in this community in regard to Federation. I cannot suppose that the least attempt will be made to force that measure *prematurely* upon the country, but I think I would be deplorably blind if I did not perceive that should the other Provinces unite, and thus consolidate their strength and resources in order to secure mutual protection and prosperity—Prince Edward Island could not possibly hope long to remain in the exceptional and anomalous condition of a separate and exclusive Province, which the anti Unionists, who, I think, are not her best friends, would seem to desire. The alarm and excitement here against the measure now, are, therefore, I think, as premature as an attempt to force the measure upon the people of the Colony would be. It it fails on the Continent it unquestionably fails here. If it succeeds *there*, what position can the anti-Unionists assume? They cannot remain out for any length of time; nor will they—nor should they be allowed to expose themselves to such a state of weakness as to become an easy prey to a foreign power, whose domination would be one of the greatest calamities that could befall them.

The most extravagant apprehensions are indulged with regard to increased taxation. We have no more reason to be alarmed on this head than our fellow subjects in the other Provinces. They will guard their pockets as closely as we can guard ours; and I think there is no reason to fear that Prince Edward Island will be selected as a victim for particular punishment in any fiscal arrangement of the United Provinces. Indeed, I feel confident that our taxes under Confederation will not be much, if any, higher than they are at present; while our advantages from free trade—increased facilities of communication—wider fields for enterprise, ay, and even for honourable ambition—and from the influx of capital and immigration—would be so enormous, that even a little additional taxation would not be felt or thought of.

I should be glad to explain my views on the subject of Representation and other matters embraced in the Report of the Convention; but I must let them pass for the present, apologising to your Worship for having so far trespassed on your patience, and begging you will believe how sincerely I subscribe myself

Your obedient humble servant,
EDWARD WHELAN.

After which Hon. Mr. Coles addressed the meeting. He said that he agreed with much that had been advanced by the previous speaker, and alluded to the hearty support which his co-delegate, the Hon. Mr. Haviland, gave to his views at the Conference, relative particularly, to the subject of representation in the Upper House. He, (Mr. C.) however, regretted that he could not agree with all the views of that hon. gentleman, in favour of Confederation. He then proceeded to point out his objections to the Report of the Conference, caused, more especially, because of their rejection of his Resolution asking for a grant of £200,000 for the purchase of proprietory lands on the Island; he said that his views in favour of a Federal Union of the Colonies, became very materially changed, when he had a peep behind the scenes of the Conference. He then saw that the Canadians were actuated by selfish motives, in approaching the Maritime Provinces with their proposals for Confederation, and felt it his duty to oppose the scheme. [This speech we shall also endeavor to publish in full.]

Mr. A. McNeill next addressed the meeting in favour of the Union side of the question. He reviewed some of the objections alluded to by the Hon. Mr. Coles, and read a speech delivered by that hon. gentleman as one of the Delegates, at Ottawa, after the business of the Conference had terminated, which speech he said was first published, among others, delivered on the same occasion in the Toronto *Globe*, and other Canadian papers, and republished in the *Examiner* newspaper, at Charlottetown, dated 19th November, 1864.

[The Reporter has furnished us with the speech here referred to, but it can be seen, as above stated, in the Examiner of the 19th Nov. last.]

He (Mr. McNeill) then commented on the above speech, and contended that it could not be construed to convey any very hostile opposition to the business of the Conference, but on the contrary was a strong proof of the approval of the hon. gentleman to the marriage alliance formed by the Report of Conference.

Hon. Mr. Beer then read a paper of statistics prepared by him, relative to the financial view of the subject, in opposition to the Tabular statement of the Hon. W. H. Pope, read by that gentleman at a previous meeting on the same subject. This document has also been handed to the press for publication.

Hon. D. Davies said he was in favour of Union on fair terms. We could hardly expect in the future the same support from the Mother Country as has hitherto been extended to us. He objected to the principle adopted in the Report relative to Tariff; but said the question should not be looked at in that narrow and gloomy view presented by the Hon. Mr. Beer. He spoke of the necessity of developing our fisheries. His speech was in favour of progress; he would support the general principle of Confederation, but had not made up his mind relative to the details of the scheme.

F. Brecken, Esq., spoke at considerable length, and took a fair and impartial view of the whole question. He said that in his opinion, the Conference Board was the proper place to protest against any infringement on the fundamental principles involved relative to the rights of this Colony. The arguments and sophistry employed by the Canadians, had, no doubt, great weight at the Conference; but our delegates should have protested against some of the terms laid down in the report, as being inimicable to the best interests of the Island.

Hon Mr. Coles, rose to explain—and said that the Delegates refused to have any protest entered on their minutes.

Then, continued Mr. Brecken, why not have withdrawn from the Conference altogether? He, (Mr. B.) then proceeded to show the political difficulties of Canadian Administrations, and their frequent changes. He was not opposed to Union in the abstract, but would not support the Report of the Quebec Conference.

At the close of Mr. Brecken's speech, it was moved that the meeting do adjourn till Monday evening next; which motion was unanimously carried.

MONDAY, Feb. 13.

His Worship the Mayor resumed the chair and announced the subject under consideration.

B. Davies, Esq., was the first speaker. He condemned the scheme of Confederation as laid down in the Report of the Quebec Conference, and was followed by H. Haszard. Esquire. Both of these gentlemen spoke at considerable length, condemnatory of the terms offered to the people of this Island, by the Conference. They were followed by Mr. David Laird and the Hon. Mr. Beer, on the same side of the question.

Mr. Laird said he was not opposed to Confederation, provided it could be obtained on proper terms; he believed that four-fifths of the people of this Island, would support a Union on just and fair terms. But he would give his decided opposition to the scheme in the present form.

Mr. A. McNeill, then said it was the duty of Mr. Laird, and those who held similar views with him, to propound a more feasible scheme for the adjustment of the question.

Hon. D. Davies, said we could not shut our eyes to the fact that we were drifting into a Union of some kind, though we were not prepared to accept the terms as at present propounded.

Hon. E. Palmer, then rose and delivered a long speech, in which he entered fully into the proceedings of the Conference. He said that the political necessities of the Canadians drove them to this proposed change; he saw this when they first met here, and he then objected to some of the basis submitted by them relative to this question. He spoke of the little attention paid to any suggestions made at the Conference relative to the interests of this Island. When, said he, any of the Island Delegates manifested any uneasiness about their country, they were met by a sneer, a laugh, or a jest. He said that Cardwell's despatch on this subject, was conceived in Canada; he was convinced of this from what he had heard at the Conference table. He said the studied policy of Great Britain was to let the Colonies have their own way; no coercion would therefore be employed by the mother country on this question.

He was followed by the Hon W. H. Pope, who replied to many points alluded to by the Hon. Mr. Palmer; but as both their speeches will be published in full, we will not attempt to give even an outline of them in our present summary.

The hour of twelve o'clock having now arrived, a motion to adjourn the meeting till to-morrow evening was unanimously carried.

TUESDAY, Feb. 14.

His Worship re-opened the meeting and invited discussion for and against the question of Union.

Hon. Mr. Henderson first addressed the meeting. He spoke of his knowledge of Canadian politics from a residence in that country from the year 1838 to 1848; he hesitated not to say that this Union scheme could be traced to the political difficulties and emergencies of the Canadians, who were proverbial for practicing corruption, and having recourse to crooked means to sustain political existence; our notable five representatives would be no barrier to them, their wily movements would be inflicted on this Island. He spoke of the financial part of the question, and touched upon many of the prominent points of the Report, giving it his decided opposition.

James Duncan, Esq., said he would offer a few remarks relative to the commercial part of the subject. He differed with those who thought the Canadians would encourage our Fisheries; this he said they could not be expected to do, as they themselves were exporters of fish. He also was opposed to the opinion that manufacturies to any extent could be successfully carried on in this country. He considered that this Island was not fairly dealt with at the Conference, and he would therefore oppose the Report.

S. Swabey, Esq., complimented the Hon. Col. Secretary for his manliness in defending the independent course which he (the Col. Secretary,) pursued in this matter. He regretted that he could not say the same of the Hons. Mr. Coles and Mr. Palmer, the former of whom swallowed his word only, the latter his word and bond both.

Hon. Mr. Coles offered some further explanations relative to the opposition given to his views in the Conference, and read the resolution which he said he submitted at the Conference Table, asking for a loan to purchase the proprietary lands of the Colony, and spoke of the indifference with which he was treated in this matter. He alluded to an address about to be submitted to the Canadian Legislature asking the Imperal Government to prepare a bill for the Union of the Colonies on the basis of the resolutions passed at the Conference. No doubt it would be said that the resolutions of the Conference received the sanction of a majority of the delegates from all the Provinces, and thus an attempt might be made to drag this Island into it. The Report, he said, should be condemned by that meeting as a whole. Some were disposed to approve of portions of it, but, in his opinion, it must be opposed *in toto*. He (Mr. C.) alluded to the speech made by him when in Canada, and which had been commented upon and read by Mr. McNeill at a previous meeting; and said he was on that occasion expressing the sentiments of others, more than his own, and did not consider that his speech would bear the construction put upon it by Mr. McNeill.

Rev. Mr. Sutherland said he felt it a duty he owed to the people of this his adopted country to raise his voice in favor of Confederation. It was one thing, he said, to be popular and another thing to be right. He appealed to the young men of the Colony who were laudably aspiring for positions in Society, and pointed out the wide field which would be opened up to them when their country became a Nation. He said justice should be done to the Island delegates; they, he presumed, were the best men the Government could appoint to the important task assigned to them. The rev. gentleman, with his usual force and eloquence, entered pretty fully into the whole question, and spoke in terms of the highest commendation of the public works of the adjoining Provinces—the opening up of Canals—the great Inter-colonial Railway—the Railroad to Shediac—and also the extension of Railway to Pictou—all these vast enterprizes, he said, tended to enhance the importance of all the Colonies, Prince Edward Island among the number.

Mr. W. B. Dawson said that during the whole of the debate he was an attentive listener, but could not agree with many of the arguments advanced against Confederation. He replied to the remarks of Mr. Duncan, relative to manufactures, and stated that, as a practical manufacturer, he was prepared, from his own experience in the trade, to show that Mr. Duncan's conclusions were not based on sound argument. Hundreds of our young people to whom employment might be given in factories all over the Island, were forced from their homes, and many of them compelled even to enlist in the foreign armies and navies of other countries for want of proper encouragement and employment at home.

Hon. Mr. Hensley spoke of the importance of this question as affecting the future destinies of the Colonies. He was not opposed to the general question of Union, but objected to the terms contained in the Report of the Conference, which, if adopted, would prove ruinous to the best interests of this Island.

Hon. W. H. Pope replied to some of the objections made by the Hon. Mr Coles, and other speakers, against the Report.

Mr. A. McNeill replied to the Hon. Mr. Coles, and said he had no desire to misconstrue the language or sentiments of any gentleman, and he did not consider that he was guilty of any misconstruction in this matter. The speech in question was before the public; they could judge for themselves. He agreed with the sentiments advanced by Mr. Brecken, who said the Conference Board was the proper place to show opposition to this scheme. He would now read the following extract from the Quebec *Gazette* of the 1st inst., to which the Hon. Mr. Coles had already alluded:

"Hon. Sir E. P. Tache gave notice that, on Friday next, (Feb. 3rd) he would move for an Address to Her Majesty, praying that she would be pleased to cause a bill to be introduced in the Imperial Parliament, for the purpose of uniting Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, on the basis of the Resolutions adopted at the Conference of Delegates from these several Colonies, held at Quebec in the month of October last."

He (Mr. McNeill) then said that if a Union on the basis of the Report of the Quebec Conference would be consummated, surely those who sanctioned, by their speeches, as well as those who signed the Report, should be held accountable.

Charles Palmer, Esq., next addressed the meeting condemnatory of the Report of the Conference—strongly urging the preference of our present position to any we could occupy under Confederation.

H. Haszard, Esq., then submitted the following resolution, which was seconded by David Laird, Esq., and put to the meeting:

"*Resolved*, That this meeting—having heard a very full and able discussion on the question of the proposed Confederation of the British North American Provinces - though of opinion that a Union might be consummated on principles and terms adapted to this Colony,—dissimilar as it is to the neighboring Provinces from its insular position, the entire interruption of its navigation during five months of the year, and other circumstances, such as the granting away of its lands in large tracts to non-residents by the Crown.—yet decidedly objects to the details of the scheme agreed upon by the Quebec Conference, especially those in reference to finance and representation, as most injurious, unjust, and illiberal to a people so situated, and confidently relies that the said details will by no means receive the sanction of the Legislature or Government of this Island.'

The Mayor, as Chairman, declared this resolution carried by a large majority.

On motion, F. Brecken, Esq., was then called to the Chair; and, on motion, the thanks of the meeting were tendered to His Worship the Mayor for his able and impartial conduct in the Chair during the whole of the debate on this question.

Carried by acclamation.

To which his Worship suitably replied.

An attempt was then made to pass a vote of thanks to the Hon. E. Palmer for his honest conduct at the Quebec Conference, but the proposition was met by loud shouts of "No!" The name of the Hon. Mr. Coles was then included in the motion, and when put, a large number rushed out of the meeting; others shouted "No! no!" &c., and some manifested their approval of the motion. Three cheers were then proposed for the Hons. Messrs. Coles and Palmer, and also for the Hon. Col. Gray and the Union Delegates, after which the meeting closed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[FOR THE EXAMINER]

MR. WHELAN :—

I waited with some impatience for the account of the meetings held by you in this District some weeks ago, and had I not been present, would have thought you guilty of some exaggeration on the appearance of the account. Although disagreeing with you on political matters, still I think you are sincere in advocating the proposed Union of the Colonies, and as some of your contemporaries have thought proper to ridicule the account of such meetings, I think it only justice to inform the public how the people of St. Peter's Bay regard Confederation.

Being chiefly farmers, and of course depending on the soil for our subsistence, we would naturally view with interest any measure which would tend to change the value of such produce. With Mr. Palmer we looked, at first, at the competition of the Intercolonial Railroad for a great falling off in prices, in consequence of the Canadian competition in the ports of St. John and Halifax, with regard to which we agreed with the above named gentlemen, that we should have had a monopoly to contend with. But after the lucid and able explanations given by you, whilst on your visit to this part of the Island, we have come to the conclusion that even if the Canadians do send their produce to these ports, we can compete successfully with them, in consequence of the difference of freight being in our favour, as they would have to send by land, whilst we send by water. Another idea which has lately occurred to us is this: if we will not go into Union, hostile tariffs will be raised against our imports to the Union, which would be a serious thing for us if we have to pay 3 or 4 cents per bushel for oats or potatoes. Again, Mr. Editor, if we will not join willingly, we shall be compelled to join, either by Britain or by circumstances, so that in the end we will be forced to receive all those "benefits" depicted by the Hon. George Beer—such as increased taxation and loss of revenue, without any favours.

The above, Mr. Editor, are a few of the reasons which have changed the views of the people in this part of your District so as to induce them to regard Confederation in the most favourable light.

Hoping that you and your colleague, Mr. Sutherland, will give your best attention to the whole subject, and casting aside sectional and local influences, vote for Confederation, if you think, as I do, that it will promote the welfare of your country and your constituents, I remain.

Yours faithfully,
ONE OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS.
Head of St. Peter's Bay, Feby. 8.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR;—My communication respecting the Lot 10 meeting has, it appears, disturbed the amiability of at least some of the worthies who figured so largely on that occasion. "A. Callaghan"—a *vain youth who was in college a year or two*—has rushed into print quite wrathy, abusing me in no moderate terms for daring to question his boasted ability to comprehend the great and intricate question of Colonial Union now contemplated. His scurrility, which evinces his ill-breeding and narrow mindedness, I will pass over, but I beg leave to offer a few observations in reply to some misstatements which he has made. He accuses me of "basely endeavouring to depreciate in the estimation of the public," those who addressed the meeting at Lot 10. I assure him he does me an injustice. What I endeavoured to do was to place them in their true position "in the estimation of the public." The report of that meeting gave them credit for possessing eloquence and the ability to picture out the results of the Union scheme—qualities to which, it is well known, they are entire strangers. This was calculated to create on the public mind a false impression regarding these individuals, and surely it cannot be out of place to correct any such impression. Indeed, I would be very sorry to think that any portion of the public should be so far mistaken as to believe these parties to be eloquent or well-informed on any subject, much less on that of Confederation. "But how can you consistently say we are uninformed when you are unacquainted with us?" exclaims this wise youth. In reply to this, I may remark, that it is quite *possible for a person to possess knowledge of the* abilities or deficiencies of another without having an acquaintance with him. Although I never saw young Callaghan or his confreres, yet I have learnt enough about them to convince me that they are, to say the least of them, utterly incompetent to form anything like a correct opinion on the tendency of the Confederation scheme. Joe Murphy is well known to be an empty, presumptuous fellow, and "A. Callaghan," who was in college only a few months, cannot be much better; as for the others, they never before had any pretensions to superior intelligence, or scarcely ever addressed a public meeting. This conceited scribbler may boast of his and their "information and judgement," and ability to illuminate my "obscure brain" on the Union question, but of course every sensible person will laugh at his senseless egotism. He puts a false construction on my words when he says, "according to Common Sense's logic the farmer of P. E. Island are a class of uncultivated people who have more pretension than brains, and who are totally incompetent to discriminate between right and wrong." I never said so. I remarked though that those uncultivated farmers who addressed the Lot 10 meeting, who pretended to know all about Confederation, and who had themselves puffed up as orators and oracles, had more pretension than brains, which few will deny. They have still the impudence to force upon us the belief that they thoroughly understand this complicated subject—that they can see as plain as day its tendency to destroy our rights and liberties, and prove our inevitable ruin—and that consequently the time has arrived when all true men should resist the wicked attempts made to enslave us. The Bishop of Charlottetown, and for the most part the clergy of all denominations throughout the Island, we are informed, take a different view of the matter, but of course they are not as intelligent, as far-seeing, or as keenly alive to their country's interests as Augustine Callaghan, Joseph Murphy and some others of equal note on Lots 10 and 11. It is a pity that these worthies would not come out in print with an array of the arguments which they praise so highly, and which had so talismanic an effect on "the *intelligent and influential men of Lot 10*" and vicinity. His Lordship, and those other intelligent men throughout the Island who are in favour of Confederation, would, I am sure, like to be convinced that "the scheme is nothing but moonshine." Even your humble servant would wish to have his obscure brain illuminated on this great question, and I feel assured the thousands who are in doubt and perplexity regarding this momentous measure would be forever obliged if these oracles would condescend to enlighten them on the subject, through the medium of the public prints. To lay aside joking, it is certainly pleasant to see these fellows assuming such airs. It is not surprising though, for presumption is characteristic of small minds. "A. Callaghan" accuses me of unworthy motives in disapproving of the proceedings of the Lot 10 meeting, and of the presumption of those who addressed it. I contend my motive was a good one; a desire to correct individuals when they do wrong. Those who attended the meeting alluded to expressed themselves hostile to Union without allowing themselves time to give the subject the investigation its importance demanded; and those who addressed them laboured to influence them against the scheme, when they themselves manifestly lacked the information, and mental acumen necessary to enable them to pronounce with any sign of accuracy on its merits or demerits. It is plain both parties acted wrongly—the one in prematurely opposing the project, and the other in prejudicing their hearers against a scheme of which they themselves knew little or nothing—and it could not have been out of place to bring them to a sense of their duty. And if my remarks should have the effect—as I intended they should—of dissuading others from committing a similar error, they will be productive of some good. A question of such magnitude as Confederation, which concerns our interests in an especial manner—which, in a word, may prove our blessing or our bane—requires the strictest and most earnest investigation at our hands. It is no libel to say that the common people are incompetent to judge of the merits of this momentous question, without giving it thorough investigation, when there is a diversity of opinion regarding it amongst the most learned. Let us study the subject well, then, and not make ourselves ridiculous in the eyes of the world by publicly condemning a measure which might, for aught we at present know, prove of immense advantage to us. It is to be hoped that the Lot 10 folks have, ere this, repented of their error, and are conscious of the impropriety of accepting as words of wisdom everything that may emanate from the lips of such brilliant stars in our firmament of literature as those whose radiance, as reflected from the second last *Herald*, has elicited these remarks. Young Callaghan assures me that he will treat any further contributions of mine to the press with silent contempt, unless I append my real signature. This is a favorite dodge with those young writers who make a furious attack on some anonymous correspondent, but lack the ability to follow it up. It is something like a person making a treacherous box at a neighbor in the dark, and then backing out when confronted by his adversary, alleging as an excuse for his want of pluck, that he considered the individual below his notice. If he considered me beneath his notice at all why not have *considered me so from first?* But why do I ask such questions? Absurdity characterises his brainless epistle from beginning to end.

I had nearly forgotten "Joseph Murphy's" communication. A more contemptible thing, I must say, has never come under my notice. Of course no person would ever think of seriously replying to such a compound of abuse and nonsense. I wonder very much that any paper laying the least claim to respectability, would publish the like of it. This writer says my letter abounded in grammatical blunders, but as he has not condescended to point out any blunders, I may be allowed to doubt the truth of his assertion. It is funny certainly to hear the learned Joseph Murphy discoursing on grammar—an individual who for the life of him could not put two sentences together correctly. The following specimens of "English undefiled" will give some idea of the elegance of his style and *his* knowledge of grammar: "They are possessed *with* an envious, malicious and jealous disposition." "If 'Common Sense' & Co. could, after finding or raising so many objections to the meeting in Lot 10, was it not *his* place &c." "Some *of our* public men did not like to see any person taking upon *theirselves* to call a public meeting." "It is very easy to amuse this would-be oracle when a public meeting of the Inhabitants of a locality that would be invited to discuss a question would do so, which every man was in duty bound to do." This last extract is not remarkable for elegance of arrangement; the italics in the others point out a few of the glaring errors in which his production abounds. He is angry with me for doubting the veracity of his report. Surely he does not suppose that any one who knows anything about him or those whom he lauded so highly, believes them to be eloquent, or capable of "showing that the (Union) scheme is nothing but moonshine." He tells us that "as far as pretension goes he has no claim to that of vulgarity or ribaldry." I would wish to know from him what he means by this expression, and at what particular time vulgarity or ribaldry became a pretension. He says he knows all about "Common Sense," and near the close of his silly effusion he promises to favor the public with a little more of his mind if he can discover "Common Sense's" character to be worthy of notice. It is strange consistency surely to profess in one place to know a person "to be no great things," and in another to be unacquainted with his character. I need not take the trouble of shewing up the many errors and absurdities of Mr. Murphy's production. No person would ever think of accusing that individual of having the ability to write for the press. He has had the presumption to appear in print several times, but always to draw upon himself the ridicule of the public. And, strange to say, he cannot see his deficiencies. He has tendered me with some uncalled for advice, and by way of returning the compliment and at the same time doing him a real service, I would respectfully suggest that he should give up public letter writing, for which he evidently is not qualified, and which *only* tends to lead him into contempt.

I cannot close this communication without adverting to the folly of those of the *Herald's* correspondents who take delight in censuring Mr. Whelan for his doings in connection with Confederation, and in lavishing empty praise on Mr. Reilly for what they call his advocacy of the people's rights. The individual who has devoted the most part of his life to his country is basely stigmatized as a traitor and conspirator by these senseless scribblers, while the upstart of yesterday who has only excited their fears and strengthened their prejudices in respect to a union, is lauded to the skies, as the embodiment of everything that is noble and patriotic. Does it not seem extremely silly and even malicious of them to censure a gentlemen who has served his country faithfully and zealously for a great number of years, without adducing a particle of proof in support of their allegations? I might with a greater show of reason assert that the Editor of the *Herald* is fishing for popularity, patronage and legislative honors. Let them prove that Confederation tends to injure us, which better men than they are unable to do, and then it does not follow that Mr. Whelan is the unprincipled mortal they have represented him to be. Assertion without proof will never convict a man, and I dare say that gentleman will survive the puny attacks made on his character by individuals who cannot substantiate their charges, who like to see themselves in print, who have nothing sensible to say when they appear in print, and who would be less laughed at if they would keep themselves out of print.

I am, Sir,
Your humble servant,
COMMON SENSE.

February 10th, 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR;—The *Protestant* of Saturday makes a clumsy attempt to show that the vote of "thanks to the Hon. Mr. Palmer and the Hon. Mr. Coles," which was *attempted* to be foisted upon the City Meeting on Tuesday evening last, "was received with a prolonged shout of applause." Nothing could be farther from the truth than this statement. Every impartial man present at the time the motion was made, can testify that a general rush to the door was made even by many of the leading and most influential anti-Unionists in the place, who have since publicly declared that they never felt more ashamed in their lives than they did at that moment, to think that rational beings would attempt to justify conduct which every impartial man must pronounce extremely reprehensible. That the shouts of "No! No!" drowned the voice of the proposer of the motion, (who could not get a hearing until he coupled Mr. Coles's name with that of Mr. Palmer,) we think that gentleman himself will not attempt to deny, and every unbiassed mind present will testify that the Chairman, Mr Brecken, did not say that the motion was "carried by a large majority." On the contrary, I hesitate not to say that Mr. Brecken himself will also testify to the fact that the rush to the doors and the shouts of dissentient voices plainly indicated that this vote of thanks was not received by the meeting with "prolonged shouts of applause," and I may further state for the information of the *Protestant*, that not many weeks ago both the proposer and seconder of the motion for a vote of thanks to the Honorable Gentlemen above named, expressed themselves in language widely different from that of "patriotic, honest and independent" when giving utterance to their opinions of the conduct of these two Delegates when at the Quebec Conference. The truth, however, leaks out in the last sentence of the article under review, which states that it was intended to include the names of "both the delegates who opposed the Quebec scheme" in the motion; but for the fact that "he, B. Davies, Esq., who made the motion, was interrupted before he had the sentence complete."

Now, pray, how could he be "interrupted" if the "whole of the meeting were in favor of the motion"? Out of thine own mouth thou art condemned, Mr. Laird, in this matter. You know full well that the "interruption" was caused by the almost unanimous shouts of an insulted assemblage—"Patriotic, honest and independent" advocacy of the interests of the Island at the Quebec Conference, forsooth, on the part of Hon. E. Palmer for placing his "Sign Manual" to the Report of that Conference on *Sunday the 6th day of November, 1864!*—And for stating previously at the Music Hall in Toronto, in his famous Speech, that "he hesitated not to say that the Delegates representing the Island would not hesitate to recommend to their people the GREAT UNION which HE hoped soon to see ACCOMPLISHED"! Was it for THIS that a vote of thanks is accorded to him by B. Davies, Esq? Was the Hon. G. Coles thanked for his "honest" conduct because he stated in his speech at Ottowa, delivered subsequently to his having had a "peep behind the scenes," as follows: "That thirty-three men, representing the various political opinions of six different Provinces, could have assembled and so amalgamated their opinions as to agree upon a Constitution suited for that great Confederation, was something, he believed, such as the world had never seen before, and showed that the delegates were worthy of the *position they held.*" Was it, we ask, *for this*, that the Hon. G. Coles is thanked for his "patriotic, honest, and independent conduct?" We think it is due to the public that the gentleman who proposed this extraordinary vote of thanks should explain "what he means by it." We surely hope he is not "poking fun" at the two delegates above named, for neither of whom has he been wont to express the highest opinion for their "patriotic, honest and independent conduct."

Yours, &c.,
OBSERVER.

[FOR THE EXAMINER.]

LAMENTATION.

(*Apres Dejeuner.*)

Contemn'd at home, despised abroad,
From scorn how can I flee!
A foul dishonor mars my name,
Old friends forsaking me.

The time is now arrived that I
Should make a little drain,
That it may be a water course
Through my back-yard domain.

And here beside my back-yard stream,
To purge away my stain,
I'll sit and drop my eye-water
Into this back-yard drain.

And on the bleach'd old-clothes codline,
Stretching by stream and byre,
I'll hang my harp, to falsehood tuned,
And play no more the LYRE.

And still beside my back-yard stream
With penance vigils keep—
Yea, by waters of my Babylon
I'll babble-on and weep.

TORONTO.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, February 20, 1865.

THE ANTI-UNION MEETINGS.

The public meetings which were held in Charlottetown during the past and preceding weeks must have afforded great relief to the more vehement of the Anti-Union party. They had been long yearning for an opportunity to give vent in public to their indignation against the promoters and advocates of the Quebec Plan of Confederation; and the meeting called by his Worship the Mayor—at the request of some of our fellow citizens—seemed to present this much desired opportunity. We will say nothing about the meetings at the so-called "Literary Society." That Society appeares to be almost exclusively a club of anti-Unionists, organized to oppose Confederation, but we feel satisfied that its opposition will never amount to much. As regards the City Meeting, and the adjournments, they resulted just as we expected they would—in the passage of a resolution condemnatory of the details of the Quebec Report. Charlottetown would not be true to its antecedents if it did not continue to be, as far as it could, an obstacle in the path of progress. There never yet was one really good measure advocated in our Legislature but what had received the hostility of its representatives, who, we must assume, expressed the views of a majority of the electors. The introduction of Responsible Government was violently opposed, and by none more fiercely than Mr. Palmer, who now pathetically prophesies the downfall of that system in the establishment of Confedeation;—Reciprocity with the United States, the immense advantages of which every one now acknowledges, was also violently opposed by Mr. Palmer, speaking, as we presume he did, the sentiments of a majority of his constituents in Charlottetown;—an extension of the franchise was opposed by the same gentleman, who, clandestinely, used his position as a member of the Government, under Sir Donald Campbell, in attempting to deprive the mass of the people of the whole Island of the right of voting at elections, proposing to confine that privilege to large landholders, and to leaseholders having twenty years possession, and three hundred pounds worth of improvements. Charlottetown is responsible for that grievous offence against popular rights, because its representatives were still sustained after their guilty complicity was established. The establishment of the free educational system—which only Goths and Vandals could be expected to oppose — incurred the inveterate hate and unflagging opposition of the Charlottetown member, who is now, by sufferance, a paid official *under* the Government. The purchase of township lands, and the settlement of the Land Question in any way that would be advantageous to the tenantry—received the opposition of the same individual, and Charlottetown again backed him out. Every measure devised to improve the condition of the tenantry was opposed by him — the Tenant Compensation Bill, the One-Ninth Bill, the Rent Roll Bill; even the Small Debt Bill, under which the tenantry would, in certain cases, get a small modicum of relief in their dealings with the landlords — were resisted by this precious exponent of Charlottetown opinion, and Charlottetown patted him on the shoulder approvingly, and returned him, on the occasion of every election, at the head of the poll. Now, will any one tell us in what instance *Charlottetown has ever yet appeared, through its representatives*, as the advocate of progress? It is known only as a "Sleepy Hollow" wherever any knowledge of it extends.

Should we be surprised, then, that the meetings here should declare their opposition to Confederation? No, we are not surprised. The tutorage which Charlottetown has received necessarily prepared it for such a declaration. Are we surprised that many of our fellow citizens at the last meeting strained their lungs in loud huzzas for Mr. Palmer? We are, indeed, surprised. It is lamentable enough that we are slow to move with the march of events; but it must be crushing to the moral sense of many in our midst that the moral tone in Charlottetown is decidedly low, when there is so much approval manifested for falsehood and deceit, — and if ever a man was *steeped to the chin in these abominable vices*, it is the Attorney General of Prince Edward Island.

As to the cause of Confederation being checked, in the least degree, by an hostile opinion in Charlottetown, the thing is simply ridiculous. Charlottetown could not keep Responsible Government and other reform measures from being carried; it has less chance of staying the progress of Confederation when five other great Provinces are urging it on. *Our* fate as a Province is *now* irrevocably involved in theirs. If they accept Confederation on the terms proposed, perhaps with some slight modifications, it is inevitable that we must do the same. We may, in our House of Assembly, contend for some special privileges on behalf of the Island. We may ask for a subsidy to enable us to purchase our township lands. We are very doubtful of our getting it; and we are not quite sure that we should want it, so long as we would have six hundred thousand pounds, as the representative of our public debt, to draw upon for the purchase of lands, or for any other local purpose. We may ask for a larger representation than five members in the lower branch of the Confederate Parliament, but we cannot get that larger representation if we acknowledge, as we must, that the whole plan of Confederation is based on the principle of representation by population. The highest number that our Delegates asked for was six,—they (including Mr. Palmer) would have been perfectly satisfied with that number; but we cannot see how the interests of the Island would be materially advanced by having *one* more representative than the plan agreed to at Quebec proposes to give us. With respect to the representation in the Upper House, we cannot alter it, unless all the other Provinces first agree to an alteration. They are not likely to do so. And as regards the financial part of the arrangement: the capitation allowance of 80 cents per head of the population for local expenditure, and the twenty-five dollars per head as representing the public debt—are as fair for us as for the other Provinces. With the 80 cents capitation, and the amount to be received annually as interest on our debt—and taking into account the numerous heavy charges which will be borne by the General Government, and which are now charged upon the local Government— we shall have an income fully as large as we require, and quite equal to our present outlay.

But, we are told, our income will not increase with our advancing years. It will not be so with any member of the Confederacy any more than it will be with us. The other members of the Confederacy will have, in a few years, a lesser income than we will have, per head, because their populations will grow much faster than ours. But we see no reason why our income should, to any great extent, increase with our advancing years. Our educational system may possibly require some further outlay after a long time; and our roads and bridges—which will be the only other heavy charge on our local revenue—are now so widely extended in every direction as to require little more than annual repairs. The present annual average grant for the road service should, we think, suffice for very many years to come. But if it be necessary to increase the grants for education, and for roads and bridges, it will not be difficult to do so by a small municipal tax, which would take the place of the present land assessment, for we assume that that would be speedily abolished under Confederation, if the men entrusted with our affairs wisely used the means at their disposal to purchase out the proprietary estates. Besides, under the invigorating influence of free trade between all the Provinces—with a rapidly growing population, which would bring in its train enterprise, capital and skilled industry—our people would be better able to pay an additional dollar on the amount of their taxation than they can now pay one eighth of the amount.

Another important consideration is, that we shall effect a very great saving in the charge for conducting our local Government. The salary of the Lieut. Governor, to begin with, will be paid by the General Government, as the person filling the office will be appointed by that Government; and the amount now paid to that officer out of the Imperial Treasury will surely continue to be paid to this Colony in consideration of the relinquishment of certain rights under the Civil List Bill of 1851. Then, the number of our local officials may be considerably reduced, and their salaries saved to the local treasury. Again, as regards the Island Legislature, there will be no necessity for thirty members in the lower House;—it was a mistake to have increased the number from twenty-four to thirty; but we can go back to twenty-four again, or even to eighteen, with as much ease as we changed the representation first from eighteen to twenty-four, and then from twenty-four to thirty. And then with respect to the Legislative Council—(and be it spoken with respect to their Honors)—we really cannot see what advantage this institution is to the body politic. Mr. Palmer used to say in former years, that the Council was merely a little Court of Registry, wherein a record was kept of the edicts of the Ministry of the day, and that one member would be just as useful as the twelve who composed that body. It is nothing better now than the pliant tool of the Ministry, and does not possess one half the talent or education which belonged to the old nominative Council that called forth Mr. Palmer's censure. Now, we think the Council may be altogether abolished, or, at least, reduced to half its present number, without the slightest injury to the public service, and another saving will be thereby effected in our annual expenditure.

When commencing these remarks, we did not intend to enter upon a general discussion of the Confederation question; but as we have dealt with some important points in the proposed arrangement, we shall resume the consideration of the question when we shall have more space at our disposal next week, and will give our views upon matters of still more importance connected with the subject than those which have now engaged our attention.

CONFEDERATION IN NEWFOUNLAND.

We copy from the *Newfoundlander* the following very sensible article, which we commend to the careful attention of our readers. The journal from which we quote is in opposition to the Government. The sentiments enunciated are just as applicable to the other Provinces as to Newfoundland:—

"It has been made sufficiently clear that our opponents of Colonial Confederation in the press desire no such thing as a candid consideration of this question. To raise false issues and to foment groundless alarms has, from the first, appeared to be the game on which they were intent. To scare away the public mind by the dread of increased taxation was the expedient first resorted to and most relied on. There is in most communities a special sensitiveness on this point, and it was believed that no more potent lever could be employed to work up a little agitation than appeals to popular nervousness on the score of new taxes. These efforts, however, do not seem to have quite answered expectation. It has been found necessary to confront a larger amount of cool reason than was anticipated, and the discovery has been made that it is easier to raise a senseless cry than to find the requisite number of senseless dupes to take it up. Men must be thoughtless indeed to have not asked themselves how the country is to continue to bear the cruel taxation it endures at present—the deprivation of means for its most urgent wants, and the employment of these very means in feeding a gigantic pauperism. It must be seen that even were we asked to make the exchange of this paralysing and deadly tax for one so light as to be practically unfelt, we ought gladly to close with an offer so plainly in our favor. It has also perhaps occured to most of us that our neighbours of the other Colonies are not one whit fonder of taxation than we are, and therefore not likely to impose new loads on their own shoulders for the sake of making us share them. All, too, who have read the Despatch of Mr. Cardwell have observed how emphatically the British Government opposed the idea of any appreciable increase of taxes under the Union; and the groundlessness of the fears entertained on this head has in one way and another been inconveniently exhibited. Hence the trial of another ghost story about the Militia to be raised here, and the bones of our people that are to bleach, under the Union, in foreign soil! Surely this doleful lament will do its appointed work, however the "tax" alarm may have failed! Such has been the calculation of those who pour it forth, but we doubt that it has made a more plentiful supply of gulls than the pretence which preceded it. Few are ignorant enough not to know, in the first place, that the idea of a Militia force in this colony is the most palpable absurdity, and that even where a Militia can be, and is, established, it is not removable against its own consent. But the maritime occupations of our people forbid the thought of it here, and it is simply idle to controvert self-evident nonsense.

Happily the time is not far distant when this Confederation question must be determined by apter and more respectable means than those that have hitherto been thought good enough to oppose to it. We can desire nothing more than a fair and full discussion of its true merits, and that misrepresentation should be justly met and exposed. This we believe to be all that is required to place the subject in its true light, and to enable all interested in the issue to arrive at a correct estimate of the interest they hold in the proposed measure. The sense and judgment of the country, through its Legislature, will then make final election of our future destiny.

WE have given on our first and fourth pages, at the request of several friends, the statement read by the Hon. Mr. Pope at the Debating and Literary Society, touching the question of Confederation. It is a most elaborate, and, we believe, faithful exposition of the financial part of the question. The anti-Union Press has filled column after column with the most extravagant speculations as to the financial part of the proposed arrangement; and we ourselves have given the use of our columns to Mr. Coles and to Mr. Beer to state their views on the same side. Mr. Pope's calculations take an entirely different direction, and we think it is only just and fair that our readers should have access to the information which they contain.

☞ THE English Mail arrived at Cape Tormentine on Friday night last, and on Saturday the Couriers endeavoured to cross over to the Island, but had to put back on account of the bad state of the ice. We have not heard whether a crossing has been or will be effected to-day, but we should think it would be. The Telegraph is not, however, in working order, and we are in want of information on this as well as other matters.

BISHOP MULLOCK OF NEWFOUNDLAND ON CONFEDERATION.

MY LORD,—Permit me to call your Lordship's attention to the desire (as expressed by a respectable correspondent in the accompanying paper, under the signature *Newfoundlander*,) that I should lay before the public a correct copy of your your Lordship's address therein referred to. To ensure a *perfect* transcript of what has fallen from your Lordship on the occasion, I will thank you to favor me with the desired information, at your earliest convenience to-day.

I have the honor to remain,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's obed't Servant,
JOHN W. M'COUBREY.

Times Office, Thursday, Jan. 5th. '65.

St. John's, Jan. 5, '65

MY DEAR SIR,—

In reply to your communication of this date, I beg to state that I took no notes of the observations I made at the last examination of the youth of St. Bonaventure's College. I distinctly remember, however, that among other arguments I used to impress on parents and scholars the necessity of education, one was, that according to the tendency of the age a union of all the British North American Provinces would take place, if not immediately, by the force of circumstances in a few years; and that such a union would have an extraordinary influence on the rising generation in Newfoundland. People were in the habit of saying that education of a high class was useless in this country, as the field was too limited. I repudiated that idea altogether. Newfoundlanders were not confined to this Island,—the British Empire and the States were open to them. Wherever the English language was spoken there was an opening for an educated Newfoundlander. But independently of that, the Confederation of the Provinces would open up a home-market for education and talent,—a market increasing every year, and of which we can form no conception. The Bar, for example, would be open to all; the Central Legislature would open up a great field for political ability,—the highest offices of the law and the government would be open to Newfoundlanders as well as to Canadians or Nova Scotians,—and I hope that they would be found perfectly qualified by education to take their places, side by side, with their fellow-Confederates, and compete for the prizes the Confederation would hold out to them, on terms of perfect equality. I sincerely believe that they could do so, as from my experience, I considered that the youth of this country have as fine talents and as great an adaptability for learning as I have seen in any part of the world; and that I never saw in any part of Europe boys aquit themselves better, (and in many cases not so well) than they did at the preparatory examinations and the present exhibition. This, as far as I recollect, was the substance of the remarks I made on the *fact*, immediate or prospective, of the Provincial Confederation. On the commercial advantages, the amelioration of our condition, or the prospective development of our resources by the Confederation, I made no observation. This will be amply discussed, I hope, by those better qualified to offer an opinion on the subject than

Your obed't. humble servant,
† J. T. MULLOCK,

JOHN W. M'COUBREY, Esq.
Times Office.

BRITISH AMERICAN UNION.

(From the Times, Jan. 19.)

By virtue of that singular arrangement through which the people of this country always learn the things done in their name from others, and may be truly said to know less of their own actions than anybody else, we have been at length informed of the course which government has seen fit to adopt with regard to the movement for a