LATEST FROM THE STATES.

NEWS FROM SOUTHERN SOURCES.

SHERMAN'S POSITION.

The *Whig* of Dec. 6 says:—"We have reason to believe, for all we have heard, that Sherman's army has united and is marching with measured pace toward the Atlantic coast, south or south-west of Millen. We have reason to anticipate a battle at some point north or northwest of Savannah ere the close of the present week."

The Washington correspondent of the New York *World*, writing on Dec. 8th, says:—

From information derived from rebel deserters and other sources, it is now certain that the Richmond and Savannah journals have succeeded in concealing some of the most important and interesting facts in connection with the great expedition of General Sherman. From various quarters I learn the following facts:

1. That General Sherman's march up to the time he reached Millen was practically unopposed, the only fighting being cavalry skirmishes between Kilpatrick and Wheeler. *This fact accounts for Sherman's slow movements*, he having made thorough work in laying waste the country.

2. *His march has created a tremendous panic.* He has swept all Central Georgia clear of grain, forage, horses, mules, and *negroes*. It is supposed he will reach the sea-coast with two able-bodied negroes for every white soldier in his ranks. It is understood that General Sherman will allow only able-bodied males to accompany his army, as women and children would necessarily impede his march.

3. Not having fought any battles in Central Georgia, and having kept his army wel together, (for the rebels do not claim to have made any captures of men) Gen. Sherman *will reach the coast with his army in splendid fighting trim and an abundance of ammunition and shot.* This is a fact of immense importance, in view of the battle which is inevitable before coming in sight of blue water.

SHERMAN'S SWATHE OF DEVASTATION.

[From the Augusta Constitutionalist.]

Every house in Griswoldville was burned by the enemy, except Mr. Griswold's house, a few negro houses and a small frame building occupied by one of the operatives of the mill.

We have, from several reliable sources, accounts of the outrages committed by Sherman's men. The most dreadful thing was their violence to the ladies. *At least six or seven suffered the last extremity. One young girl became crazeed in consequence, and has been sent to the asylum. Other ladies were stript of their garments, and, in such a plight, made to play on the piano*, and, in the event of a refusal, switched unmercifully. One lady, the wife of a Confederate officer, was left a maniac. But we sicken at the rehearsal of such atrocities, and we only put them on record to heighten, if possibie, the indignation of our soldiers, and unite our people in obtaining our independence. Let Georgians remember this in the day of battle!

THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE.

Our people are more defiant and more united than ever. Some admitted of a taint of reconstruction heretofore, but now they raise the cry of independence or death. Our women, especially, are more nerved than ever to work, to suffer, and to pray for our cause. In this sense, the march of Sherman through Georgia will accomplish good. Another good sign: the people are not repressed as when Donelson or Vicksburg fell, but more hopeful of final results than they have heretofore been under reverses.

SHERMANS TROOPS WELL APPOINTED

The Yankees were admirably clothed and appointed. Each man had eighty rounds of ammunition, while their wagons contained fixed material without stint. Rations for forty days had been prepared, and they suffered for nothing.

WHEELER REDEEMING HIS REPUTATION AS A RAIDER.

(From the Richmond Dispatch, December 7.)

General Wheeler, since the setting out of Sherman's expedition, has displayed distinguished ability and gallantry. He is a brave and accomplished officer, fully up to his profession in every respect, except in the matter of raids, in the conduct of which it must be admitted he has not been very successful. During this campaign he has hung upon Sherman's rear, cutting off stragglers, and hovered on his flanks, driving in foraging parties, while one portion of his command preceded the enemy, destroying bridges and ferries and obstructing roads. In addition to all this, he has three or four times beaten superior forces of the enemy's cavalry in battle. He and his men have been constantly in the saddle for now nearly a month.

THE INCENDIARY PLOT.

The following interesting advertisement appears in the colums of the Richmond *Whig* of December 7:

To all whom it may concern.—The failure of our employees to do their work recently, with skill, in the city of New York, makes it necessary for the Brotherhood to meet and concert measures for a more decisive execution of the great retaliatory duty they have taken upon themselves at this juncture. Our own homes have been destroyed in violation of all the rules of war, and we must make our ruthless enemy feel the weight of our justly aroused vengeance in the very centers of his resources and wealth. We can do it—do it effectually.

You are therefore ordered to meet in this city by delegates from our several associations in Virginia, North and South Carolina, at 8 o'clock, on the evening of the 15th instant, for business. By order of the

Great Brother.

COLLISION ON THE GRAND TRUNK—SEVERAL PERSONS BURNED TO DEATH—PARTICULARS OF THE ACCIDENT.

A dreadful accident, attended with melancholy loss of life, occurred on Thursday night shortly before eleven o'clock, on the Grand Trunk Railway, about a mile west of Detroit and Milwaukie junction, and five miles from Detroit, through a collision between the day passenger express train going west and a freight train going east. From the account of the Detroit *Free Press* of yesterday we condense the following particulars of the occurrence:—

"The passenger train was behind time, and had made all the necessary passes, according to the telegraphic instructions, until it had passed New Baltimore station, where it is said it had orders to cross the freight going east at the Detroit and Milwaukie junction. When it arrived there, according to the story of the operator, at the Grand Trunk junction, it had orders to proceed all right. Under these instructions it passed the junction, when shortly afterwards the engineer thought he discovered an engine ahead The next moment he heard the whistle to down breaks, when he immediately gave a similar order and reversed his engine. There were with him in the cab at the time two other persons, besides the firemen. Before they could jump the two engines came crashing together in frightful contact, literally making chaos of everything connected with both. The engines were dovetailed into each other in an inseparable manner, and the mail and baggage car of the passenger train driven partially through the forward passenger car, thereby causing the frightful catastrophe which followed.

"The passenger train, which consisted only of two coaches and a baggage car, was crowded with passengers. Both cars were filled to the utmost, so much so that scarce even standing room could be obtained. Immediately after the smash occurred the stoves were upset and the cars took fire. In an almost incredible space of time the flames enveloped the whole, with the exception of the last car, and how many perished time alone can tell. The flames shot up in a broad sheet, illuminating the heavens for miles around. As seen from the city, it appeared as though some huge bonfire was blazing at the skating park.

"After recovering from the shock, those who escaped turned their attention to the rescue of those in danger, and succeeded in delivering several from the burning mass. Whilst thus engaged they were forced to witness a sight which fairly curdled the blood in their veins, and towards the recital of which the pen denies its office. The mail agent, George W. Millen, of Port Huron, was found to be jammed in between the baggage and forward passenger car. His leg was firmly held between two pieces of broken timber, and all efforts to rescue him before the devouring flames engulphed him in their folds proved futile. The most herculean efforts to extricate his crushed and bleeding limbs from its fearful embrace were used, but the rapidly spreading flames drove the labourers from their work, and they were forced to witness him perish before their eyes, his heart-rending shrieks piercing their ears for help, until stifled amid the smoke and flames of the devouring element. After the fire had burned down his charred trunk was taken from the ruins, the head, arms and legs completely devoured, and the body roasted to a cinder.

"As we have stated, it is not known how many persons perished. We can, therefore, only as yet surmise the number sacrificed to the catastrophe. Some persons, in working among the ruins, discovered a portion of a female's hoop skirt, and shortly afterwards the bones of a human being among the ashes. Another person drew from the ruins a portion of the bottom of a silk dress, and a ticket upon which was the address, 'Miss Mary Boorlingam, Oneida, N. Y.,' but whether this belonged to any one who perished has not been discovered. It is said that a lady and two children were in the car, who have not turned up, and that a physician who was in the city awaiting the arrival of a sister or some female relative, or both, mourns their absence. It is probable that five or six have perished. Beyond the melancholy death of Mr. Millen, no names have transpired."

CORRESPODENCE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT AT HALIFAX.

Halifax, N. S, Dec. 23, 1864.

Dear Examiner—

I perceive that you have no regular correspondent in this latitude; and as events sometimes take place here which may prove of interest to some of your readers, I will, with your permission, take upon myself the task "special," in the hope of whiling away leisure hours.

As in your little Island, the great subject of Confederation is engrossing the minds of the people of Nova Scotia, to the exclusion almost of every other topic. Confederation is the pass-word among friends meeting each other in the daily paths of business, and in every place of resort you are certain to see parties busily engaged in commenting on the merits and demerits of the scheme. The opposition in the metropolis is feeble, although a large proportion of the populace studiously refrain from passing any decided opinion on the matter, preferring rather to watch the progress of events. If an appeal to the people was had, however, I think there can be no doubt but that the decision would be almost unanimous in favor of the proposed Union of the Colonies. At the meeting held by the Delegates, when the details of the plan were unfolded and explained in a masterly manner by the representatives of this Province, it was agreed that a subsequent meeting should be held, at which the opponents of the measure were to have an opportunity of refuting the doctrines propounded by Doctor Tupper and his colleagues, and a distinct understanding was entered into to the effect that a free discussion should take place on the occasion. Monday night last was to be the "field-day." On that occasion, Temperance Hall was crowded with the wealth and intelligence of the city—I cannot say the "beauty" in the sense it is generally used, as the ladies have so far held aloof from the meetings. Mr. A. M. Uniacke has hitherto been regarded as the leader of the "Anti-Union party;" while some other gentlemen, as yet unknown to fame, were expected to advance arguments showing the injury which would result to the maritime Provinces in the event of their being induced to enter the Confederation. On the meeting being declared open, the question immediately arose as to whether the discussion was to be an open one. Mr. Uniacke, from the stage, indignantly repudiated the idea, when a perfect storm arose — the Delegates and those who thought with them contending that the proper way was to place all the facts, *pro* and *con*, before the audience, and allow them to judge for themselves. Various suggestions were offered from the assemblage, some, as you may suppose in view of the uproarious state of affairs at this juncture, not having any particular bearing upon the subject in hand. The Delegates were adjured to "go in and win" by sundry small boys in the front seats, who manifested a great interest in the proceedings, and a perfect medley of voices resounded throughout the Hall. To heighten the confusion, a Mr. William Miller, who, I believe, represents Richmond county in the House of Assembly, and who boasts of belonging to no political party, arose on the stage, and on being hissed from the audience, declared that he would "let the people know that a Halifax mob was not the whole of Nova Scotia," a self-evident proposition. This gentleman you may perhaps have heard of before. He is a seeker after notoriety; and a bard in one of the Halifax papers some time since immortalised him in lines beginning—

"There was a Mr. Miller once
Who was an M. P. P.,
And thought he was a cute young man—
Did Mr. Miller—he."

And then followed some verses appropriate to the occasion.

To return to the subject. After a half-hour's wordy warfare, the meeting broke up in confusion. The opponents of Confederation, however, are to lay their views before the public this evening, at the same place.

The sleighing in the city is superb, and in the evenings especially the teams, freighted oft with fair occupants, are flying around in all directions. The skating also has been capital, but the lakes and ponds are now covered with snow. The latter pastime is the favourite amusement here; and any fine evening, when the ice is in good order, its glassy surface is covered with skaters of both sexes, a large proportion being females Dressed, *a la mode*, in fancy dresses now in vogue for such occasions, they quite captivate the hearts of the unsuspecting *homo*, who goes forth to indulge for a few hours in this pleasing and healthful recreation. The Skating Rink has been recently enlarged, and in various ways improved for the winter campaign. It is rumoured that a "fighting room" has been attached to the building, where parties may settle private differences which occasionally occur, as last winter several *rencontres* took place, one pugilistic encounter in particular between two young ladies of the *ton* furnished food for scandal for many a day.

Business is rather dull, although here it can scarcely be taken as a criterion of the amount transacted, as large operations are very frequently done in a quiet manner. Halifax is proverbial for this. The blockade-runner *Old Dominion* arrived on Wednesday from Nassau, having successfully run the blockade with a large cargo of cotton.

I am surprised at some of your public men using the puerile argument against the Confederation that while it will directly benefit the other Colonies, P. E. Island comes in for no share of the immediate good results. It ought to be self-evident that your Colony, as a part of the Confederation, *must* prosper as the public works alluded to increase the wealth and influence of the Union. As an integral part of that Union, the Island will be regarded totally irrespective of size, debt, or population.

Coal is selling here at $9 per chaldron, and not easy to obtain even at that enormous figure. This is accounted for by the large quantities which have been shipped off to the States, where Sydney coal is regarded with great favor.

The recent storms have proved fatal to a portion of our shipping. The brigt. *Magnet*, which has been for some time past used for conveying cattle to Bermuda, was wrecked on the return voyage, on Tuesday night, near Portuguese cove, at the entrance of this harbor. The weather was bitterly cold, and one man was frozen to death—others being terribly frostbitten. The Underwriters here lose heavily by this transaction—$15,000 being insured on the vessel and cargo. One Company, which confidently anticipated making a large dividend, will barely pay the past years' working expenses. Other wrecks are reported. More anon. B.

Dec. 22nd, 1864.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir:—About as silly a thing as I have seen in print this long time was ushered into public view by the *Herald* of Wednesday last, over the signature of "Joseph Murphy." It purports to be a report of the proceedings of a meeting held recently somewhere among the bogs and barrens of Lot 10, to take "into consideration the projected Confederation of the Colonies." We are informed by this report that some of "the intelligent and influential men" of said Lot and vicinity, at the meeting alluded to, expressed themselves by a series of resolutions opposed to Confederation, having, it appears, been carried captive by the eloquence and argumentative powers of the several speakers. I have not the honor of being acquainted with these new lights that have risen in this unfavored and hitherto obscure part of the Island, nor do I think they are much known to fame; but really, considering the ignorance that prevails among the masses regarding the nature and tendency of the Union scheme, is it not a pity that such luminaries should be kept under a half bushel? That extemporaneous lecture, "clothed in eloquent language," and "delivered with much ease and ability," and those "witty," "appropriate," "instructive" and "eloquent" speeches given on the occasion referred to, must tell, wherever delivered, with wonderful effect in creating opposition to the nefarious measure, and in frustrating the machinations of unprincipled and ambitious politicians. It would, of course, convince the most sceptical to hear the learned lecturer—Mr. A. Callaghan—"showing very clearly" that "the scheme was nothing but moonshine"—"that nothing contained in the Report was going to benefit this Island, but, on the contrary, would materially injure and place the people of this Island in a worse position than they even could fall into under the present form of Government." And I am sure it would be particularly interesting and instructive to listen to Mr. J. Callaghan "dwelling eloquently on our situation, showing, with much shrewdness and natural ability, that instead of going to gain anything by a Confederation of the Colonies, we were going to place ourselves in the capacity of serfs, and lose forever the protection of the Mother Country;" or according to Mr. Callaghan's "very eloquent and argumentative style," "which showed very conclusively that no material benefit would be derived by entering the Confederation."

Such ridiculous bombast and pretension as this is certainly very amusing. The Hon. Mr. Coles, who has got the credit of being a far-seeing politician, acknowledges he cannot see his way clearly yet in regard to the momentous project of Confederation; but certain humble individuals in the far west, we are told, can clearly s e and eloquently picture out the doom which awaits us if we accept its terms. Verily wonders will never cease, when uncultivated farmers, with more pretension than brains, can foresee and foretell the calamitous results of the great and intricate question of Colonial Union, which can scarcely be mastered by the most experienced statesmen. If the report had said that those whom it puffed up to such an extraordinary degree had made some remarks on Confederation without much sense or weight in them, I dare say it would have been much nearer the truth. These would-be oracles cannot be much superior in point of intelligence to the majority of their fellow colonists, whose hostility to Union, it is well known, is based upon ignorance and prejudice, strengthened by the sophistry, wild denunciations and mazy figuring of anti-Union writers. The lucubrations of the latter cannot be said to be very enlightening or persuasive, consisting as they do, for the most part, of reckless conjecture, and conclusions drawn from the most ridiculous assumptions; and it is therefore unreasonable to suppose for a moment that the eloquence of the pretentious heroes of the Lot 10 meeting would impress any intelligent mind unfavorably to Union. The opposition to the measure, said to have been manifested on the occasion, arose, no doubt, from prejudice and inability to comprehend the subject, and not from the conviction that it would injure this Island; and if the speechifying of the Callaghans, &c., had any effect at all, it was in strengthening the fears and prejudices of the multitude.

The editor of the *Herald*, ever on the alert to grasp at every trifle antagonistic to the Confederation scheme, seems to be delighted at the manifestation of hostility to that measure made at Lot 10, and counsels "other localities to take up the question in a similar manner." I feel assured his advice will be unheeded by all sensible men. It may be advisable to call public meetings to *debate* the subject, for discussion, conducted in a proper spirit, as it would tend to open people's minds, and lead them to thought and inquiry; but to take up the subject in a manner similar to that in which it was taken up at Lot 10 would be ridiculous absurdity, and would only mislead people on this momentous question. Without speaking disparagingly of the mass of the people, they are, at present, through deep-rooted prejudice — natural enough under existing circumstances—and want of information on the matter, unable to see clearly through the scheme, or judge of its merits; and the one-sided speeches of individuals as prejudiced and uninformed as themselves, as far as Confederation is concerned, instead of enlightening, would mislead them. The best advice to give the people, in the present crisis, is this: Investigate the question with that earnestness, patience and impartiality which its importance demands. Apply to all the sources of information within your reach, and weigh well and without bias the arguments on both sides, refraining from taking either side till you are fully convinced whether it would be better to accept or reject the scheme. Do not have it said that you blindly opposed a measure of whose merits you did not inquire, and were unable to judge. Your opposition, in such a case, would be something similar to that manifested at first by a large portion of the people, at public meetings and otherwise, against our Free Education scheme, the best ever introduced into our Legislature—it would be a degrading proof of ignorance and rashness on your part, and would bring you into well-merited contempt.

To give a faint idea of the kind of arguments used in the country against Confederation by those who pretend to know all about it, I will briefly notice a communication from Lot 7, which appeared in the last *Herald*, signed "A Friend to anti-Union." The writer assures us that "the clearer we keep from a Federal Union, the better for ourselves and our posterity;" for, he complains, according to the Report of the Convention, members of the General Legislative Council will be chosen for life; none will be elected but wealthy men; members of the Lower House will be chosen for five years; the General Government will have power to tax us; the laws of the Union must not run counter to those of Great Britain; and the enactments of the local Legislature must be submitted to the General Government for approval. These and "many other nice things in the Report of the Delegates," which time would not permit him to enter into, would, he affirms, be ruinous to this Island. Those "other nice things" might, for aught I know, prove prejudicial to our interests; but how far these "nice things" he *has* entered into tend to injure this Island, I am at a loss to imagine. Yet, such arguments as he employs, and to my knowledge even more frivolous ones, are brought to bear on the minds of the community by the leading opponents of the measure in the rural districts. For my own part, I am by no means in favour of a Union, for, like Mr. Coles, I cannot see my way very clearly at present; but, at the same time, I do not feel disposed to swallow down every frivolous argument urged against the project, And while I shall use every endeavour to arrive at a safe conclusion how to act in regard to this great question when the time shall arrive for me to give my voice for or against it, I hope I shall not be so wanting in discretion as to express myself, by resolution or otherwise, hostile to the measure, without having more convincing proof of its ruinous tendency than can be furnished by the small minds of uninformed people.

I am, Sir,
Your obd't servant,
COMMON SENSE.

Dec. 28th, 1864.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir:—

Should you deign to insert this brief communication in your journal, I trust the public will grant me an abundant show of their kind indulgence and pass over, if possible, unnoticed all violations of the rules of grammar, style and the other ingredients of correct composition I deem it altogether necessary to make this premise, because now-a-days there is such a vast number of silly, witless and superficial critics, who make it an avocation to attack and cut up every communication that appears in our Island journals, that we, farmers, hesitate to declare openly our opinions on the grand topics of the day, being ever in dread of those scribbling "fire-brands," who, although incapable of hurting, may nevertheless annoy us to a considerable extent. Now, to return more to the point, as far as I am able to ascertain, the "Confederation Scheme" engrosses the attention and assiduous study not only of the inhabitants of St. Peter's Bay, but, I presume, of the whole Island; so great are the interests at stake, in fact, they are the advancement or degradation, prosperity or ruin, happiness or misery of 80,000 souls Editors and politicians, ever hitherto known to have acquiesed in their views in all the political question that have engaged their attention, now balance and seperate, embrace and uphold opposite sides of the great question, whose solution will prove either beneficial or prejudicial to the people of this Island. The politicians, I may add, are not, in this moment of genial excitement and embarrassment, inactive, but each, fearful of any unhappy result that may accrue to him from the *Union*, exerts himself to make his voice heard among his friends and acquaintances—the one through an inordinate desire of discussion, the other through a fear of loss or hope of gain; while a third party—the true and sincere patriot—endeavours to impress upon the minds of his antagonists the practibility or impracticability of a *Union*, according as he deems it beneficial or prejudicial to the interests of the people. Do not, however, imagine that I purpose precipitating myself into the midst of this confusion of opinions, but my sole design is to endeavour to remove some false ideas that have crept into the minds of a great portion of the public. The readers of the "Examiner" are, no doubt, all convinced that you, Mr. Editor, are directly and explicitly favourable to the Confederation of the Colonies. For this alone the editors of the *Herald* and *Protestant*—the organs of Palmer, and consequently of inconsistency—do not hesitate to stigmatize you, Sir, as a despoiler of our rights and privileges, and a traitor and disgrace to the Island. Now, sir, I am not a *unionist*, nor are there, as yet, many among your electors, nevertheless I feel it a duty to come forward on this occasion, as a representative of popular sentiment in this locality, to express our great displeasure and dissatisfaction at the ungentlemanly and uncharitable manner in which you have been treated by the editors, or as you fancy to designate them, the "scribblers" of the *Herald*. The writers of this journal ought not soon to cast in oblivion the remembrance of the manifold services rendered to them by Mr. Whelan in withdrawing them from many polemical difficulties with the opponents of the "*Vindicator*." Let not Mr. Reilly for a moment suppose that by disparaging in any manner whatsoever the conduct and character of the "Editor of the Examiner," that he will more easily thereby ingratiate himself with the electors of St Peter's Bay; on the contrary, the more he will impugn his motives as dishonest, the greater detriment he will bear to his own honour and reputation. Although we are but (town folks will say ignorant) farmers, yet we have inherited, notwithstanding the primevol fall of our first parents, sufficient common sense not to judge of anything until we hear and understand it. Let Mr. Reilly then understand that we do not pay much heed to his effusions, nor shall we reject the man who has so long and so faithfully served our interests, without first being thoroughly convinced from the futility of his arguments of his having wandered from the true path with regard to the Union. But, as I said before, we shall not judge Mr Whelan until we hear him, for we are fully aware that he has, up to the present, been only parrying off the blows of his assailants, but the time is arriving when he will stand on the offensive, and thunder down on the anti-unionists with the full strength and weight of his arguments and logic. It is strikingly amusing to observe the apparently great interest Mr. Reilly takes in the welfare of the people, in general, throughout the whole Island, but in particular of those of Mr. Whelan's constituency. No doubt, being young and but little known, he yearns after carving for himself a name and a standing in society. It has been even intimated to us that he intends to succeed Mr. Whelan at St. Peter's in case of the rejection of the latter. Thus he toils on from morn till eve over his papers, "with devotion's visage and pious action and would sugar over the devil himself." Let him then learn in time that he is not the most popular man in this part of the Island; and that a man capable of committing the same freaks of impudence and misdemeanor, as he did at the Souris Tea-Party, is not the person calculated to represent this constituency; nor should we deign to receive among us such a candidate, even were we to reject you, Mr. Editor, on account of political differences. Mr. Reilly is welcome to come to our Union Meetings soon to be held, but I can assure him that if he be not killed with *snow-balls*, or something more unsavory, no one shall presume to outrage him with *kindness*.

Hoping, Mr. Editor, that you will soon make your appearance among us, and that the public will profusely lavish on me a good share of indulgence for all grammatical errors that may be interspersed throughout this piece,

I remain &c.,
ONE OF THE FARMERS.

St. Peter's Bay, Jan. 7th, 1864.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

"O Jupiter! what a mighty pride!
What a sudden change of tide!
Ignorant upstarts will now presume
The air of critics to assume!"

How justly the philosophy of the stanza above cited from an author held in high repute, applies to those puny critics who, in the last issue of the *Herald*, have attacked my communications on the Union "with an abundance of superfluous breath," I leave it to the judicious and impartial public to judge. That "Georgicum" and his friend "Amicus" were not actuated in their criticism through truly sincere and patriotic motives for the cause they have espoused, there lies not the least shadow for doubt. Apparently their fertile brains were overflowing with literary *bosh*, and their gigantic spleen emitting torrents of ill-humor and revenge, which they thought to put to some advantage in directing their channel towards my letters. But as Horace says "that *the centuries of grave Senators explode all the writings that are devoid of sound instruction*," and as the effusions of the writers above named do not touch on my arguments in a logical but solely in a grammatical point of view, I would not have, under any consideration, paid the least attention to them, did I not wish to convince *Georgicum* and his friend, that there are backwoods teachers who have a little smattering of English grammar and a few notions of the Latin tongue, and who are perhaps equally as well qualified to figure in print as are many of the professors of the Colleges and schools of Charlottetown. Therefore it is that, prompted by the saying of Horace, "*a plague take the hindmost; I must defend* my poem for fear of the critic's boasting." I reluctantly, not through fear of failure, but a natural disgust, undertake to pass *Georgicum* through the same ordeal of criticism with which he was pleased to treat me. From the length of time that he has taken to put together his brief communication, we have every reason to presume that he wished to defer its coming to light *until the* "ninth year," when he would have *it castigated*, as he thought, a thousand times to perfect accuracy; nevertheless, after all his hard labor and "much sweating," he has not been able to avoid a greater number of *glaring grammatical errors, palpable violations of all, or nearly all of the essential properties of style*, than ever flowed from the "crazy" pen of "Willocks." Had *Georgicum* pondered more over Addison, he would have observed, in a number of his *Spectator*, that "in newspaper discussions on questions of state a good deal of indulgence is due to certain faults of writing, for Horace says, 'The string does not always produce the sound which the artist's hand and thought designs,' provided that the beauties shine forth more conspicuously than the faults." In the case of *Georgicum*, I will leave the public to discern and proclaim whose effusion figures most brilliantly in the literary world. My critic accuses me of one great crime — the frequent use of *big words* and *florid figures*. Before my opponent alleges this as a crime, I would bring to his mind the old proverb: "Better fearlessly to soar in the air than cowardly to lie flat, (like *Georgicum*), and creep along the ground."

After having enlightened my critic a little in his own avocation, and given him reasons never again to come forward in print on a similar mission, I will now pass to analyse his letter, and point out some of its defects, for as regards beauties, it possesses none. In the third sentence, he speaks of refuting the arguments of *his opponents*. I will relinquish to some more penetrating intellect than mine the task of examining the signification and derivation of *opponents*. Again, he asserts that the unionists are more fond of *pompous declamation than sound reasoning in their arguments*. Will *Georgicum* please inform the public who first declaimed in writing? Further on he denominates the victim of his splenetic gas *the object*. I fear our scholar had here neglected to consult his volume of Synonymes, otherwise he would have substituted some other word for *object*. In the third paragraph, he unblushingly admits that he has no particular objections to a *union*, but that he is ready to support all the views set forth by Mr. Reilly, however erroneous they may be. He has then no opinion of his own — his own judgment and reason subserve menial like the editor of the *Herald* Wishing, however, to enlighten me and gain me to Mr. Reilly, he advises me to peruse the *back* numbers of that journal. In accordance with the proper acceptation of words, *back* is not only incorrect but a word altegether unpardonable from such an egregious critic. In the fourth paragraph, he says: *If such a writer is a teacher*, &c. What relation in the present sentence is there between *such a writer* and *Willocks*. The other mistake contained in this sentence, I leave to *Georgicum's* acuteness of perception to divine. "*In the third sentence*," says Georgicum, "*which is diffuse, labored and concise*" I would advise my critic to open once more his volume of Rhetoric and study the difference between *diffuse* and *concise*. He states ....*particularly in the sentences where he speaks about*, &c. Does Lennie countenance the use of *where*? In the fifth paragraph, he says: "This person is unacquainted with the subject on which he *wrote*, &c. I allow Georgicum to have another exercise in guessing the mistake in this clause.

Space, Mr. Editor, will not permit me to proceed farther in this criticism, but I presume enough has been advanced to convince Georgicum that he is not the profoundly intelligent and discerning scholar that he professes to be. I should have heartily desired to have done as much for *Amicus*, but time will not at present permit. I may, however, observe *en passant* that his composition contains far more glaring faults than his friend's; twenty or thirty at least might be pointed out. I would, in finishing with him, advise him to study a treatise on *Tautology* and the comparison of adjectives before he undertakes to teach them. These, then, are the *swelling blustering* characters that don't blush to ridicule my grammar and style. Alas! I exclaim, for the literature of P. E. Island, if Georgicum and his friend are its champions and critics. It would not here be out of place to recommend to them a precept Horace gave some eighteen hundred years ago to the Pisos:—*Et male tornatos incudi reddere versus.*"

Before dismissing my new acquaintances, I will, through charity, vouchsafe to them a few words of advice, which may be of immense service to them in future, viz: First —Better to never attempt criticisms again; if you should, to study the rules and endeavor to acquire the necessary agents to carry them out; second, to procure the best edition of Lennie's Grammar, and acquire a little more than a superficial knowledge of it; third, to study the signification of the *Susquepedalia verba* for which end you will employ Worcester's Dictionary; fourth, to study Quackenbos's treat se in Punctuation, so that your sentences will not convey a sense different from the one intended. I trust that I have now impressed on the minds of the public to what great corruption our Island Literature would be exposed, were it under the protection of such bright intellects as *Georgicum* and *Amicus*. But, thanks to Heaven, it is not, otherwise I would exclaim with Cicero: O Tempora! O Mores! Should *Georgicum* again meet in print in any other line but argument, I will not deign to give him a reply, for I presume to have opened his eyes sufficiently wide on this subject that he may see, as through a mirror, the shallowness of his own brain. Therefore, I trust to be no longer entitled to the appellation of "crazy," for I opine the mad cap fits *Georgicum* naturally. Wishing my new acquaintances a happy New Year, I now pass to the more important part of my letter — the Union Scheme defended,

WILLOCKS.

(*To be continued.*)

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, January 9, 1865.

THE QUEBEC CONVENTION.

As public meetings are now about being held in several parts of the Island, to consider the Report of the Quebec Conference on Confederation, we deem it advisable to place that document, with the very latest corrections made to it, before the public for general information. It was published in November last in nearly all the Provincial papers, but the draft from which the copy was taken was very imperfect in several of the Resolutions, for they had been printed just as they had been agreed to at Quebec, and the corrections were not made until the Delegates re-assembled at Montreal. The corrected copy reached here only a short time since; and we avail ourselves of this early opportunity to reproduce it in time for use at the public meetings.

A Document of such immense importance cannot be too closely studied, especially now that it receives additional importance from the Despatch of the Colonial Minister, which will be found annexed to the Report. Indeed, it must be apparent now to every intelligent mind that the great change in our Colonial political relations must speedily take effect, whether we in Prince Edward Island are, or are not disposed to consent to it. The Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, are declaring in favour of it by overwhelming numbers of their respective populatians — Canada is almost unanimous for it; and the British Government are earnestly urging it on. The Despatch from the Crown is highly complimentary to the Delegates — whose authority for their proceedings at Quebec is promptly and handsomely recognised. The two objections urged are such as may be readily met by the several Colonial Parliaments when passing the measure; and a full compliance with the suggestions of the Crown will not derange the symmetry of the proposed Scheme.

We recommend the Despatch to the perusal of all our fellow Colonists. It foreshadows the early coming of that day, when, in loyal obedience to the commands of their Sovereign, they will be required to throw in their lot—despite the groundless objections which Prejudice may urge — with their fellow subjects in the other Provinces; and we hope we all — even the opponents of Confederation here — will live to rejoice over the increased prosperity to this Colony which the new state of things cannot fail to inaugurate.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COLONIAL FEDERATION.

REPORT

Of Resolutions adopted at a Conference of Delegates from the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the Colonies of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, held at the City of Quebec, 10th October, 1864, as the Basis of a proposed Confederation of those Provinces and Colonies.

1. The best interests and present and future prosperity of British North America will be promoted by a Federal Union under the Crown of Great Britain, provided such Union can be effected on principles just to the several Provinces.

2. In the Federation of the British North American Provinces the System of Government best adapted under existing circumstances to protect the diversified interests of the several Provinces and secure efficiency, harmony and permanency in the working of the Union,—would be a general Government charged with matters of common interest to the whole Country, and Local Governments for each of the Canadas and for the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, charged with the control of local matters in their respective sections,—Provision being made for the admission into the Union on equitable terms of Newfoundland, the North-West Territory, British Columbia and Vancouver.

3. In framing a Constitution for the General Government, the Conference, with a view to the perpetuation of our connection with the Mother Country, and to the promotion of the best interests of the people of these Provinces, desire to follow the model of the British Constitution, so far as our circumstances will permit.

4. The Executive Authority or Government shall be vested in the Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and be administered according to the well understood principles of the British Constitution by the Sovereign personally or by the Representative of the Sovereign duly authorized.

5. The Sovereign or Representative of the Sovereign shall be Commander in Chief of the Land and Naval and Militia Forces.

6. There shall be a General Legislature or Parliament for the Federated Provinces, composed of a Legislative Council and a House of Commons.

7. For the purpose of forming the Legislative Council, the Federated Provinces shall be considered as consisting of three divisions, 1st. Upper Canada, 2nd. Lower Canada, 3rd. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, each division with an equal representation in the Legislative Council.

8. Upper Canada shall be represented in the Legislative Council by 24 Members, Lower Canada by 24 Members, and the three Maritime Provinces by 24 Members, of which Nova Scotia shall have Ten, New Brunswick, Ten, and Prince Edward Island, Four Members.

9. The Colony of Newfoundland shall be entitled to enter the proposed Union, with a representation in the Legislative Council of four Members.

10. The North-West Territory, British Columbia and Vancouver shall be admitted into the Union, on such terms and conditions as the Parliament of the Federated Provinces shall deem equitable, and as shall receive the assent of Her Majesty; and in the case of the Province of British Columbia or Vancouver, as shall be agreed to by the Legislature of such Province.

11. The Members of the Legislative Council shall be appointed by the Crown under the Great Seal of the General Government, and shall hold Office during Life; if any Legislative Councillor shall, for two consecutive sessions of Parliament, fail to give his attendance in the said Council, his seat shall thereby become vacant.

12. The Members of the Legislative Council shall be British Subjects by Birth or Naturalization, of the full age of Thirty Years, shall possess a continuous real property qualification of four thousand dollars over and above all incumbrances, and shall be and continue worth that sum over and above their debts and liabilities, but in the case of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, the property may be either real or personal.

13. If any question shall arise as to the qualification of a Legislative Councillor, the same shall be determined by the Council.

14. The first selection of the Members of the Legislative Council shall be made, except as regards Prince Edward Island, from the Legislative Councils of the various Provinces, so far as a sufficient number be found qualified and willing to serve; such Members shall be appointed by the Crown at the recommendation of the General Executive Government, upon the nomination of the respective Local Governments, and in such nomination due regard shall be had to the claims of the Members of the Legislative Council of the opposition in each Province, so that all political parties may as nearly as possible be fairly represented.

15. The Speaker of the Legislative Council (unless otherwise provided by Parliament) shall be appointed by the Crown from among the members of the Legislative Council, and shall hold office during pleasure, and shall only be entitled to a casting vote on an equality of votes.

16. Each of the twenty-four Legislative Councillors representing Lower Canada in the Legislative Council of the General Legislature shall be appointed to represent one of the twenty-four Electoral Divisions mentioned in Schedule A of Chapter first of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, and such Councillor shall reside or possess his qualification in the Division he is appointed to represent.

17. The basis of Representation in the House of Commons shall be Population, as determined by the Official Census every ten years: and the number of Members at first shall be 194, distributed as follows:

Upper Canada	82
Lower Canada	65
Nova Scotia	19
New Brunswick	15
Newfoundland	8
and Prince Edward Island	5

18. Until the Official Census of 1871 has been made up, there shall be no change in the number of Representatives from the several sections.

19. Immediately after the completion of the Census of 1871, and immediately after every Decennial Census thereafter, the Representation from each section in the House of Commons shall be re-adjusted on the basis of Population.

20. For the purpose of such re-adjustments, Lower Canada shall always be assigned sixty-five members, and each of the other sections shall at each re-adjustment receive, for the ten years then next succeeding, the number of members to which it will be entitled on the same ratio of representation to population as Lower Canada will enjoy according to the Census last taken by having sixty-five members.

21. No reduction shall be made in the number of Members returned by any section, unless its population shall have decreased relatively to the population of the whole Union, to the extent of five per centum.

22. In computing at each decennial period, the number of Members to which each section is entitled, no fractional parts shall be considered, unless when exceeding one half the number entitling to a Member, in which case a Member shall be given for each such fractional part.

23. The Legislature of each Province shall divide such Province into the proper number of constituencies, and define the boundaries of each of them.

24. The Local Legislature of each Province may, from time to time, alter the Electoral Districts for the purposes of Representation in such Local Legislature, and distribute the representatives to which the Province is entitled in any manner such Legislature may think fit.

25. The number of Members may at any time be increased by the General Parliament,—regard being had to the proportionate rights then existing.

26. Until provisions are made by the General Parliament, all the Laws which, at the date of the Proclamation constituting the Union, are in force in the Provinces respectively, relating to the qualification and disqualification of any person to be elected or to sit or vote as a member of the Assembly in the said Provinces respectively—and relating to the qualification or disqualification of voters, and to the oaths to be taken by voters, and to Returning Officers and their powers and duties,—and relating to the proceedings at Elections,—and to the period during which such Elections may be continued, and relating to the Trial of Controverted Elections, and the proceedings incident thereto, and relating to the vacating of seats of Members and to the issuing and execution of new Writs in case of any seat being vacated otherwise than by a dissolution,—shall respectively apply to Elections of Members to serve in the House of Commons, for places situate in those Provinces respectively.

27. Every House of Commons shall continue for five years from the day of the return of the writs choosing the same, and no longer, subject nevertheless, to be sooner prorogued or dissolved by the Governor.

28. There shall be a Session of the General Parliament once at least in every year, so that a period of twelve calender months shall not intervene between the last sitting of the General Parliament in one Session and the first sitting thereof in the next Session.

29. The General Parliament shall have power to make Laws for the peace, welfare and good Government of the Federated Provinces (saving the Sovereignty of England) and especially Laws respecting the following subjects:—

1. The Public Debt and Property.
2. The Regulation of Trade and Commerce.
3. The imposition or regulation of Duties of Customs on Imports and Exports, except on Exports of Timber, Logs, Masts, Spars, Deals, and Sawn Lumber and of Coal and other Minerals.
4. The imposition or regulation of Excise Duties.
5. The raising of money by all or any other modes or systems of Taxation.
6. The Borrowing of Money on the Public Credit.
7. Postal Service.
8. Lines of Steam or other Ships, Railways, Canals and other works, connecting any two or more of the Provinces together, or extending beyond the limits of any Province.
9. Lines of Steamships between the Federated Provinces and other Countries.
10. Telegraphic Communication and the incorporation of Telegraph Companies.
11. All such works as shall, although lying wholly within any Province, be specially declared by the Acts authorizing them to be for the general advantage.
12. The Census.
13. Militia—Military and Naval Service and Defence.
14. Beacons, Buoys and Light Houses.
15. Navigation and Shipping.
16. Quarantine.
17. Sea Coast and Inland Fisheries.
18. Ferries between any Province and a Foreign Country, or between any two Provinces.
19. Currency and Coinage.
20. Banking, Incorporation of Banks, and the issue of paper money.
21. Savings Banks.
22. Weights and Measures.
23. Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes.
24. Interest.
25. Legal Tender.
26. Bankruptcy and Insolvency.
27. Patents of Invention and Discovery.
28. Copy Rights.
29. Indians and Lands reserved for the Indians.
30. Naturalization and Aliens.
31. Marriage and Divorce.
32. The Criminal Law, excepting the Constitution of Courts of Criminal Jurisdiction, but including the procedure in Criminal matters.
33. Rendering uniform all or any of the laws relative to property and civil rights in Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, and rendering uniform the procedure of all or any of the Courts in these Provinces; but any Statute for this purpose shall have no force or authority in any Province until sanctioned by the Legislature thereof.
34. The Establishment of a General Court of Appeal for the Federated Provinces.
35. Immigration.
36. Agriculture.
37. And Generally respecting all matters of a general character, not specially and exclusively reserved for the Local Governments and Legislatures.

30. The General Government and Parliament shall have all powers necessary or proper for performing the obligations of the Federated Provinces, as part of the British Empire, to Foreign Countries, arising under Treaties between Great Britain and such Countries.

31. The General Parliament may also, from time to time, establish additional Courts, and the General Government may appoint Judges and Officers thereof, when the same shall appear necessary or for the public advantage, in order to the due execution of the laws of Parliament.

32. All Courts, Judges and Officers of the several Provinces shall aid, assist and obey the General Government in the exercise of its rights and powers and for such purposes shall be held to be Courts, Judges and Officers of the General Government.

33. The General Government shall appoint and pay the Judges of the Superior Courts in each Province, and of the County Courts of Upper Canada, and Parliament shall fix their salaries.

34. Until the Consolidation of the Laws of Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, the Judges of these Provinces appointed by the General Government, shall be selected from their respective Bars.

35. The Judges of the Courts of Lower Canada shall be selected from the Bar of Lower Canada.

36. The Judges of the Court of Admiralty now receiving salaries shall be paid by the General Government.

37. The Judges of the Superior Courts shall hold their offices during good behaviour, and shall be removable only on the Address of both Houses of Parliament.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

38. For each of the Provinces there shall be an Executive Officer, styled the Lieutenant Governor, who shall be appointed by the Governor General in Council, under the Great Seal of the Federated Provinces, during pleasure; such pleasure not to be exercised before the expiration of the first five years, except for cause; such cause to be communicated in writing to the Lieutenant Governor immediately after the exercise of the pleasure as aforesaid, and also by message to both Houses of Parliament, within the first week of the first Session afterwards.

39. The Lieutenant Governor of each Province shall be paid by the General Government.

40. In undertaking to pay the salaries of the Lieutenant Governors, the Conference does not desire to prejudice the claim of Prince Edward Island upon the Imperial Government for the amount now paid for the salary of the Lieutenant Governor thereof.

41. The Local Government and Legislature of each Province shall be constructed in such manner as the existing Legislature of such Province shall provide.

42. The Local Legislatures shall have power to alter or amend their constitution from time to time.

43. The Local Legislatures shall have power to make Laws respecting the following subjects:

1. Direct Taxation and the imposition of Duties on the Export of Timber, Logs, Masts, Spars, Deals and Sawn Lumber and of Coals and other Minerals.
2. Borrowing Money on the credit of the Province.
3. The establishment and tenure of local offices, and the appointment and payment of local officers.
4. Agriculture.
5. Immigration.
6. Education; saving the rights and privileges which the Protestant or Catholic minority in both Canadas may possess as to their Denominational Schools, at the time when the Union goes into operation.
7. The sale and management of Public Lands, excepting Lands belonging to the General Government.
8. Sea coast and Inland Fisheries.
9. The establishment, maintenance and management of Penitentiaries, and of Public and Reformatory Prisons.
10. The establishment, maintenance and management of Hospitals, Asylums, Charities and Eleemosynary Institutions.
11. Municipal Institutions.
12. Shop, Saloon, Tavern, Auctioneer and other Licenses.
13. Local Works.
14. The Incorporation of private or local Companies, except such as relate to matters assigned to the General Parliament.
15. Property and civil rights, excepting those portions thereof assigned to the General Parliament.
16. Inflicting punishment by fine, penalties, imprisonment or otherwise for the breach of laws passed in relation to any subject within their jurisdiction.
17. The Administration of Justice, including the Constitution, maintenance and organization of the Courts—both of Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction, and including also the Procedure in Civil Matters.
18. And generally all matters of a private or local nature, not assigned to the General Parliament.

44. The power of respiting, reprieving and pardoning Prisoners convicted of crimes, and of commuting and remitting of sentences in whole or in part, which belongs of right to the Crown, shall be administered by the Lieutenant Governor of each Province in Council, subject to any instructions he may from time to time receive from the General Government, and subject to any provisions that may be made in this behalf by the General Parliament.

MISCELLANEOUS.

45. In regard to all subjects over which jurisdiction belongs to both the General and Local Legislatures, the laws of the General Parliament shall control and supersede those made by the Local Legislature, and the latter shall be void so far as they are repugnant to or inconsistent with the former.

46. Both the English and French languages may be employed in the General Parliament and in its proceedings, and in the Local Legislature of Lower Canada, and also in the Federal Courts and in the Courts of Lower Canada.

47. No lands or property belonging to the General or Local Government shall be liable to taxation.

48. All Bills for appropriating any part of the Public Revenue, or for imposing any new Tax or Impost, shall originate in the House of Commons or the House of Assembly, as the case may be.

49. The House of Commons or House of Assembly shall not originate or pass any Vote, Resolution, Address or Bill for the appropriation of any part of the Public Revenue, or of any Tax