

VERY IMPORTANT NEWS!!

THE FENIAN INVASION OF BRITISH TERRITORY AT LAST!!

A special telegram was received here on Friday last from Major General Doyle, at Halifax, communicating the astounding intelligence that the Fenians had, on the previous day, crossed in force, and in hostile array, into Canada. Fifteen hundred are reported to have attacked and taken Fort Erie, in Canada, which is situated at the head of Niagara, and right opposite Buffalo, U. S. A band of two thousand other Fenians are reported, in the same telegram, to have crossed at Niagara, on the Canada side, from some point about Lewiston, on the American side. This latter horde destroyed some of the locks and works on the Welland Canal, and tore up thirty-six miles of the Railway towards Hamilton, Canada West. We have heard nothing up to the moment we write, (Saturday afternoon), showing whether the invaders met with any and what resistance. That the scoundrels will be repulsed, and those captured severely punished, cannot admit of a doubt. As to any Fenian invasion being successful, never, we think, entered into any imagination but a Fenian one. The great misfortune is, that many innocent lives may be destroyed, and an immense amount of property sacrificed to the fury of the Fenian mob. How far the United States authorities have countenanced the conspiracy, which has at length taken a practical turn, remains to be seen. The invasion of the territory of a friendly Power, long threatened, could scarcely be effected without their knowledge and connivance. We will look with extreme anxiety for full particulars on this point, as one affecting the peaceful relations of Great Britain and the United States.

Since the above was written we have received the following telegram, which represents the news to be of the most alarming character:-

THE FENIAN INVASION!—FIRST BLOODSHED!—LOSS OF LIFE ON BOTH SIDES!!—GALLANT CONDUCT OF THE CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS!!

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE CHARLOTTETOWN READING ROOM.

Charlottetown, June 2, 1866.

The Volunteers found the Fenians encamped attacked them, AND FIGHTING NOW GENERAL. The Volunteers are driving the Fenians. NUMBERS KILLED ON BOTH SIDES. Colonel Peacock, with the Regulars and Artillery, have sent despatches, stating that they cannot be there—at the scene of action, at once—but it is thought that the Volunteers will be able, at least, to hold their own until the Regulars come up. The Volunteers behaved splendidly.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF P. E. ISLAND ON CONFEDERATION.

HAVING a little leisure, we address ourselves to the task of reviewing; the Resolutions which a large majority of the assembled wisdom of this Colony declare to be their deliberate and earnestly and carefully considered opinion on the subject of the Confederation of the British American Provinces. It would be highly improper in us to review important state papers in the same spirit and in the same style as we would a petty pamphlet or an after-dinner speech. Every word in these Resolutions has, of course, been carefully weighed, and every argument duly considered. Nothing has been said for mere effect. There are no rhetorical flourishes—no unmeaning or unnecessary epithets—no unfair exaggeration. The expression of the "deliberate" opinion of so august a body should be calm and dignified, clear, pointed and precise. It would be in a high degree disrespectful to our House of Assembly to suppose that in dealing with this most important subject of Confederation a large majority of its members should so far forget what was due to themselves and to the body of which they form the principal part as to resort to any of the pitiful electioneering tricks of politicians of easy principle, in order to ally the unfounded suspicions of distrustful constituents. We, at any rate, will not be so wanting in respect for the representatives of the people of this Island in Parliament assembled as to imagine that any considerable number of them could be guilty of conduct so unworthy and so undignified. We will, then, in dealing with these resolutions do their framers and supporters the justice of supposing that they mean what they say, neither more nor less.

From the first resolution we make the following extract:—"That any Union of the British North American Colonies, which would embrace P. E. Island, upon the terms and principles set forth in the Resolutions of the Conference of Quebec . . . would not only be unjust to the inhabitants of this Colony but prove disastrous to their dearest and most cherished rights and interests as a free people enjoying the blessings of a free constitution." We may remark, in passing, that it appears to us that any Union on terms and principles set forth in the resolutions of the Quebec Conference must be the Union recommended by those resolutions, and no other. We can understand how a Union upon the principles of which is commonly called the Quebec Scheme, but with terms more or less modified, might be loosely called a different Union; but how a Union upon the same principles, and upon the same terms as those contained in that Scheme, can be denominated a different Union, exceeds our comprehension. There appears to be some confusion of thought here, and we do not wonder at the perturbed state of the minds of the framers and supporters of the resolutions under review, when we consider that they really believed the scheme of Union so strongly recommended to them by the Parent Government is a vile plot to deprive the inhabitants of this Colony of their rights and privileges which constitute them a free people. To be forcibly deprived of liberty is a dreadful calamity; therefore, to ask a free people to enslave themselves, is most unparliamentary. What Government, having any the slightest claims to be called paternal, would prefer so absurd a question? When we come to think that the framers of the resolutions really and honestly believed that, under the scheme of Confederation so strongly urged

upon them by a liberal Colonial Minister, and so ably and so strenuously advocated by talented and honest men throughout British America, our persons and property would be unsafe—liberty of speech and liberty of conscience would be unknown—that justice would be inequitably administered, and the rights of popular representation could not be exercised—we do not wonder that they were too much agitated to express themselves with accuracy or precision. We confess, however, that it would require better arguments than we have yet heard and clearer evidence than we have yet seen to convince us that any such designs are contemplated, either by the parent government at home or by the advocates of Confederation in the Colonies. We have seen nothing that would lead us to suspect that the statesmen of these North American Colonies have become disgusted with the measure of liberty they have hitherto enjoyed, or that they have fallen in love with any of the forms of tyranny with which the world is cursed. Neither do we think it at all likely that the Quebec Delegates, coming as they did from every Province, and selected from every party, would combine to conspire against the dearest and most cherished rights of the various free communities whose representatives they were. On the contrary, we are firmly convinced that these gentlemen would be the first to resent the slightest infringement on the rights of the people, and that they would resist to the death any power that dare attempt to deprive the inhabitants of these Provinces of the least important of the rights of freemen. As the people of this Island would, under Confederation, enjoy equal rights and privileges with those of Canada, and the other Confederated Provinces, and as it is not to be for a moment supposed that the people of these Provinces are less tenacious of their rights, or less jealous of their interests than we ourselves are, the people of this Island may rest assured that when Confederation does take place, their rights and interests, as free men, will be quite as secure as they now are—the "deliberate" opinion of the majority of the House of Assembly to the contrary notwithstanding.

We are glad to find that even at this late date some of the most strenuous opponents of Responsible Government have become convinced of its suitability to our circumstances, and have given public testimony to its value. A few years ago many of those who now talk of our "priceless constitution" saw no good in Responsible Government. That form of government which they now laud so highly they then characterized as altogether unfit for our peculiar circumstances, and declared it to be fraught with the direst evil to the people of this Colony. They now acknowledge their mistake. They now confess themselves to have been short-sighted and unpatriotic in opposing that which has proved to be a "priceless" boon; and it is not quite probable that they are just as shortsighted, and just as unpatriotic in their present course of opposition to Confederation on any terms? We would be the last to disparage Responsible Government. It certainly was a great improvement on the old irresponsible family compact system; but sad experience prevents us from endorsing the statement that the gift, though a precious one, is "priceless." Under it we found the action of the Legislature perpetually thwarted by a totally irresponsible proprietary party. As the Land Question was the only one on which there existed any real difference of opinion on the Island, and as nothing could be done on that question without the permission and concurrence of this party, one or two of its members have, during the last twelve or fourteen years, been the virtual rulers of Prince Edward Island. The fate of the Tenant's Compensation Bill, the Rest Roll Bill, and the lame and ineffectual conclusion that the famous Land Commission came to, all prove this. We were graciously permitted to make laws about the running at large of Sheep and Swine, and the incorporation of Churches and Temperance Societies; but when we attempted to legislate on the only important subject within our jurisdiction—to redress the only real grievances that our people complained of—our sovereigns, the land proprietors, said, thus far shall you go and no further. To the proprietors the constitution, as worked by the Downing Street authorities, has, indeed, been a "priceless" one, but the people of this Island have no reason to praise it so unreservedly.

Every one knows that timid people are very apt to imagine dangers where none really exist. They are continually tormenting themselves, and alarming others with their unfounded fears. Objects which to the undisturbed mind appear in their just proportions assume in their eyes the most distorted forms and the most alarming dimensions. To the belated superstitious clown every stump and bush becomes an object of terror, and he starts with fright at the most familiar sounds. We cannot help thinking that many of the anti-Confederate majority are in a similar frame of mind, and that when their reason becomes unclouded, they will smile at their present fears, and be thoroughly ashamed of the utterance that their imaginary terror has extorted from them. Had the statements which this first resolution contains found their way into the leading article of a rabid anti-Confederate newspaper, or had they fallen from the lips of some candidate for legislative honors, we would have deemed them unworthy of notice; but being the solemnly expressed finding of the most important deliberative assembly in the Colony, our readers must excuse us for paying more attention to them than their intrinsic merit deserves.

THE BISHOP OF CHATHAM, MIRAMICHI, ON CONFEDERATION.

The Right Rev. Dr. Rogers, Catholic Bishop of Chatham, Miramichi, recently addressed the following letter to the Solicitor General of New Brunswick, in answer to an application made by the latter for an expression of his Lordship's opinion on the great question of Colonial Union, preparatory to the election in Northumberland. Bishop Rogers is the fourth Catholic Bishop in the Maritime Provinces who has publicly declared himself in favour of Confederation. First, the Arch Bishop of Halifax; next, the Bishop of St. John's, N. E.; next, the venerable Bishop of Archa; and now, the Bishop of Chatham. These highly educated and talented ecclesiastics ought to be considered capable of understanding the great question on which they have written; and we may be sure that they would be the last to recommend it to their people, if it were fraught with the

THE NEW BRUNSWICK ELECTIONS.

We have not yet received complete returns of all the elections so far held. The following returns from Carleton and Albert Counties show the enormous majorities obtained by the Confederates over their opponents.

Carleton County. Woodstock, N. B., May 23. The following is the state of the poll at the close of the election in Carleton County on Saturday last:—

Table with 2 columns: Candidate Name and Votes. Includes names like Connell, Lindsay, Best, Raymond.

The three first are Union men, the latter Best, was the only candidate that avowed Annexation or Anti principles.

Albert County. The election for Albert County, N. B., came off yesterday, and resulted in the return of the two Confederate Candidates by large majorities.

Table with 2 columns: Candidate Name and Votes. Includes names like McLellan, Lewis, Peck, Ryan.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE NEW BRUNSWICK ELECTIONS—EXTRAORDINARY TRIUMPH OF CONFEDERATION.

We have received intelligence, up to Saturday afternoon, of the returns from the elections in six Counties in New Brunswick, from which we learn that sixteen Confederate Candidates were returned, and not one on the other side.

Table with 2 columns: County Name and Members. Includes Northumberland, Carleton, Restigouche, Albert, Sunbury, York.

All Confederates. 16

RESIGNATION OF THE HON. W. H. POPE.

The Hon. W. H. Pope resigned his office as Colonial Secretary and his seat in the Executive Council, on Monday last. The reason assigned for this proceeding by the Islander (Mr. Pope's own organ)—is a difference of opinion with his late colleagues in the Government on the question of Confederation.

We understand that the grounds of Mr. Pope's resignation are, his entertaining opinions upon Confederation diametrically opposed to the views held upon this important subject by a majority of the members of the local Government, and also his belief that it is his duty to endeavor to shew to the electors of this Island that Confederation would benefit them, and that, as dutiful subjects, it is incumbent upon them to disavow the resolutions passed last session by the House of Assembly, which declare that any Federal Union of the North American Colonies that would include Prince Edward Island would be opposed to the feelings and wishes of the people of the Island.

The Islander reports the Town talk that the Hon. J. Longworth will succeed Mr. Pope in the office of Secretary, and that Mr. Duncan, one of the members for the Murray Harbor (or Fourth) District of King's County will be offered the vacant seat in the Executive Council.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

New York, 28th May, p. m. A fire at Oil City, Penn., Saturday night, destroyed 75 stores, 40 residences, 8 hotels, and rendered homeless 175 families. Loss over one million dollars. Information has been received that Brazil has resolved to open the Coastguard trade to all nations. The opening of the River Amazon cannot be much longer delayed. The Department of State has information of the sailing of one thousand French troops from Vera Cruz and the arrival there of 360 of the Foreign Legion.

Toronto, May 26th. A writ of Habeas Corpus has been granted in the case of the Fenian prisoners, returnable next week.

New York, May 28. The steamer "City of Boston," with 187 passengers of the 17th inst., has arrived. In both Houses of Parliament, the bombardment of Valparaiso has been considered in terms of indignation, but the neutral attitude of the British Government was defended, and fully endorsed by the Government. The English press, and people, loudly denounce this act of Spain. An indignation meeting held in Liverpool adopted strong resolutions of protest, also a resolution expressing gratitude to Commodore Rodgers, of the U. S. Navy, for his exertions. The financial crisis continued sensibly to subside. The military attitude of the various Powers was threatening. It is reported that Bismarck receives daily warnings of assassination. It is stated that Austria in a few weeks will have 900,000 men in the field. Large bodies of troops sent from Vienna had already effected strategic concentration on the Prussian frontier.

THE CASE WELL PUT.

The following is from the Scottish American of a recent date. We commend it to the careful and attentive consideration of all. It deserves the more as being from the pen of one who can have no motive to mislead, one who is not influenced by any but solid and substantial reasons for what is there advanced, one who occupies a stand-point removed from local influences, and whose opinion, therefore, ought to weigh:—

CONFEDEATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES. The fate of Confederation in the Maritime Provinces is to rest in the hands of the people of Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia has led off New Brunswick will follow suit, and we venture to predict, will do it gracefully. This is no mere party question, and there is every reason to believe that it will not be regarded as such by any considerable number of the electors of New Brunswick, when they record their votes in the pending Parliamentary election.

Within a month from the present time we shall know precisely how the time has been spent by the people here in regard to the question of Confederation. Practically it is an Imperial or anti-Imperial vote of the people of New Brunswick are about to be taken. They have to choose between the maintenance of the Union as it is, or the adoption of a new one. Still the measure is not one which belongs peculiarly to Canada, or to any one distinct Province. It is a grand question, and one which Parliament is so thoroughly and exclusively pledged, as of this British American Confederation. Certain members of the Quebec Conference may have had selfish objects in view. Local politics may have been mixed up in the deliberations of that body with grand Imperial interests. But this cannot be said of the aims and the declared purposes of the British authorities. What certain Canadian politicians may have had in view can have nothing to do with the far-seeing and the long-reaching objects contemplated by the Home authorities. The latter have no reason to favor Canada at the expense of New Brunswick than they have to favor Prince Edward Island at its expense. The great object sought by the Queen's Ministers, without distinction of party, and to which Parliament is so thoroughly and exclusively pledged, as of this British American Confederation. Certain members of the Quebec Conference may have had selfish objects in view. Local politics may have been mixed up in the deliberations of that body with grand Imperial interests. But this cannot be said of the aims and the declared purposes of the British authorities. What certain Canadian politicians may have had in view can have nothing to do with the far-seeing and the long-reaching objects contemplated by the Home authorities. The latter have no reason to favor Canada at the expense of New Brunswick than they have to favor Prince Edward Island at its expense. The great object sought by the Queen's Ministers, without distinction of party, and to which Parliament is so thoroughly and exclusively pledged, as of this British American Confederation.

It has to be remembered that while on certain questions the colonies may be compromised by their relations with foreign powers, there are many British American questions in which the Government of the mother Country may be equally as much involved with foreign powers in defending the interests of the Colonies. The maintenance of peace and friendship between Great Britain and Great Britain of mutual confidence and support. In this broad Imperial light Confederation must be regarded; and in this light we have no doubt, the enfranchised people of New Brunswick will regard it in the pending election.

TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE LOWER PROVINCES.

The advertisement of the Post Office Department, calling for tenders for the conveyance of mails to the Lower Provinces by a weekly line of steamers, is one of the most gratifying evidences that has yet been furnished us that our Government is setting itself practically to work to establish more intimate trade relations between our Lower Province neighbors and ourselves, and to pave the way for Confederation hereafter—not merely a political confederation—but one of mutual interests, which is the firmest bond to cement us together. We have lost the trade of the Maritime Provinces through our own stupidity. We have allowed it to be diverted to the East and Atlantic States, and are dependent not only on these States for a highway for the import of the products of British American fisheries, but have almost annihilated our coasting marine, at one time the most profitable and healthy branch of commerce upon which the cities of this Province depended. The establishment of a line of weekly steamers will be but the forerunner of a fleet of coasting vessels owned in Canada and the Maritime Provinces, and sailed on British American account. We do not anticipate that a very large market will be open to us, but the trade, such as it is, will amply repay the risk and enterprise. We hope yet to see the St. Lawrence become the highway for all the imports to supply the necessities of inhabitants in the far west. The trade commission to the West Indies has also been productive of much good. We may recover the whole, or a portion at least, of a trade which at one time was carried on to such an extent in this port.

Montreal, always on the alert, with an energetic and enterprising commercial population, will struggle hard to get this contract into their hands; but Quebec is the emporium fixed by nature. We have, besides, greater facilities than our ambitious neighbors, and within one week from the closing of the contract a line of steamers could be placed on the route. Let us not dream on in apathetic lethargy until it is too late—Quebec Daily News.

Shipwreck.—The ship Nabia, of Londonderry, Ireland, Wm. Coster, master, was wrecked on the Southern Point of Scatarie Island on Thursday, the 10th inst.—wind blowing hard at the time, with heavy rain and thick fog. The vessel running on rocks, and was struck, filled with water instantly. The masts were cut by the board to prevent her breaking up. Two of the crew volunteered to put on life-boats and try to reach the shore with a line, but both failed in doing so. A third man, who was the only one left on the wreck, was blown overboard by the force of the wind, and was seen no more. On getting hold of the small line, we then flung a war on shore, and by its assistance hauled the men on shore, one by one, through the surf—a dangerous work at the best of times, but doubly so in the dark, as it was then. We had no time to lose, and were obliged to remain in a small camp during the remainder of the night in our wet clothes, being twenty-nine of us all told.—Communicated by J. McLean, Esq., Superintendent of Scatarie.

AWFUL MISADVENTURE.—A correspondent of the London Morning Post sends the following remarkable narrative:—"A melancholy instance of the danger of taking God's name in vain, has occurred at Brighton. A few days since, as some boys were playing in a court leading out of Edward street, to that town, a dispute took place between them about the number of 'queens' one of them, a lad named Richards, had made whilst playing 'cat and dog.' Richards declared that he had scored more than his companions, and was ready to bet on it. He had a large sum of money on him, and was very high at the time, and increasing. I got down about 1 o'clock p. m., with a crowd of men, but found it very difficult to render assistance; we laid hands on that fellow, and took him to the hospital, but he died in a few hours. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, and the man was sentenced to six months imprisonment in the county gaol. The man was a native of Brighton, and was in the habit of taking God's name in vain, and was very high at the time, and increasing. I got down about 1 o'clock p. m., with a crowd of men, but found it very difficult to render assistance; we laid hands on that fellow, and took him to the hospital, but he died in a few hours. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, and the man was sentenced to six months imprisonment in the county gaol. The man was a native of Brighton, and was in the habit of taking God's name in vain, and was very high at the time, and increasing. I got down about 1 o'clock p. m., with a crowd of men, but found it very difficult to render assistance; we laid hands on that fellow, and took him to the hospital, but he died in a few hours. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, and the man was sentenced to six months imprisonment in the county gaol. 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