and generous commander, of trust in the good-will of the United States government of inclination or readopt in heart the allegiance from which New Orleans seceded with the South, and was swallowed up in all breasts in the wish that Butler might die, and in some by the resolve to kill him. The idea of planting Union seed in such a poisonous soil was at least seen to be wholly hopeless. The poison must be got out; therefore Butler, to the great joy of everybody, was removed.

It will always be a matter of more wonder to people abroad than here that an administration which could, in the words of Mr. Seward, officially renounce the acts of a creature like Butler, and declare, in all its official correspondence, that his removal from command at New Orleans was owing to proceedings which the government most decidedly disapproved, has retained him in other commands so long. It is a matter of more wonder that that administration has sent him home at last.

He came North to be received with open arms by that body of adherents whose fanaticism forgave and justified what the administration had criminally tolerated, and what the better men of all parties had denounced in terms of far too measured severity. Some secret grip upon the interests—surely not upon the affections—of Mr. Lincoln and the War Department has given him leave to dishonor a score of positions made honorable by better men.

His career at Fortress Monroe and in the Army of the James, is marked by failure, failure everywhere. The mania for issuing sharp orders and for writing sharp letters has been the bane of many an innocent culprit. Woe to the poor citizen, the forgetful soldier, in whom the eccentric Butler discovered a subject for his pen. His name, his antecedents, became the threads of a satire so mean and despicable, that not even the straps of a major-general deserved to shield the writer from the same sort of punishment once so bountifully administered to him by a sturdy bricklayer in his garden at Lowell.

Once, and once only, within his own domain, a military court-martial repaid him in kind by sentencing a poor wretch of a negro soldier, on trial before them, to "hard labor on Dutch Gap canal for life."

"Sweet are the uses of adversity." The disaster that shelved Butler, however shocking at first to the nation at large, is at last worth more to the nation than a victory. To every adverse tide that rolls such floodwood high and dry upon the shore, the country can well afford to be submissive.—*New York World.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

CONFEDERATION OF THE PROVINCES.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir;—Circumstances unforseen at the time of my last communication have prevented me from paying, as I had promised, earlier attention to the farther ventilation of the Confederation Scheme; but, although a considerable time has since elapsed, and although I had the occasion of hearing various arguments *pro* and *con* the Union, yet, I must say, that I have not at any time or anywhere heard sufficiently strong reasoning to convince me that Confederation is going to prove detrimental to the best interests of this Colony. On the other hand, I have been wonderfully *confirmed in my former sentiments, to wit*: that the Confederation of the British Provinces is desirable politically, commercially and socially. *Politically*, because it would enable all those living in the Provinces to be subjected to one government and to one constitution; *commercially*, because it will increase our commercial facilities—trade will then be as free between Quebec and Charlottetown, as it is now between this latter place and Summerside, and by means of the Intercolonial Railway, travellers will be only 35 hours distant from Montreal. In the third place, Union is desirable *Socially*, because it will procure us that intimate intercourse which the people of these Provinces, drawing their blood from the same source, have a right to expect. Nor shall this connection with Canada resemble in the least that of England and Ireland, as the anti-unionists assert. This latter union was essentially Legislative; and when the question was first moved in Ireland, the force of popular sentiment was so strong against it in that country, that the measure was instantly defeated. It was, however, passed into law the year following its first proposal by the extensive use of open and undisguised bribery of the members of the Irish Parliament. Thus was Ireland deprived of its House of Commons and House of Peers, and abandoned to the mercy of her most inveterate enemy. But such shall not be the case with P. E. Island respectively to the contemplated Union. We will have a hand in framing the constitution of our future government; we will possess a local House of Assembly to provide for the individual government of the Island; and our representatives, after having consulted the feelings of their constituents, will I presume, be superior to bribery and treachery.

The great objection that the advocates of union continually hold out to the people in order to deter them from yielding their adhesion to this grand movement, is the additional amount of taxation—a sure consequence, say they, of this Confederation. But nothing is more ridiculous than the idea that the Canadians desire the Union solely to entail in us exorbitant taxes and oblige us in the end, as many will assume, to sell our farms and leave the country. Is not every one aware, that the Constitution of the Central Government is so framed, that if the Canadian legislators wish to impose an assessment on us, they must assess themselves in like manner? In my humble estimation, the opponents of Union resemble very closely certain parish vestries discussing a rate in aid question. They appear to me to attach to the Confederation of the Colonies no other or more important grounds upon which they can view this project than that of mere finance. In fact, the philosophy of the question, according to them, may be resumed in these few words: If the proposed scheme of Confederation can by any mathematical or theoretical process of ratiocination, be discovered to involve a few more cents of taxation than what is already borne by the inhabitants of this Island, then let all further investigation or enquiry into the matter be laid aside and indefinitely neglected. A person possessed of sound judgment and common sense could scarcely conceive a more absurd *non sequitur*, and surely no one would be so rash as to reject, even in case of the admission of the above premises, the scheme until thoroughly satisfied that the Union did not possess remunerations more than compensating for its cost and unattainable in any other way. In the first place, unionists will not admit that we will be much more heavily assessed. But people, whose minds have been deranged with this monomania, cry out in shallow strains, that Canada pays 29 per cent on what are called *ad valorem* goods, while P. E. Island pays but 10 per cent; therefore the Canadians are overburthened with taxation—their rulers extortioners and tyrants. Nothing, indeed, was ever better calculated to delude the country,—better for such people to sit down calmly, reflect seriously, and carefully compare our respective tariffs. Now, it is an absolute fact, that, although in Canada, there are certain articles that are taxed with 25 per cent, yet there are a number of others for which they pay only 10 or 15 per cent; while again there were 80 articles that admit of no tariff. In fact, one-half of the imports are duty free; and the reason why certain imported goods are so heavily taxed, is in order to operate as a prohibition. No duty was imposed on home manufactures in the view of protecting all those who should be desirous of embarking in this trade. Thus while Canada was smoking and drinking articles if not all, at least but lightly assessed, we were paying highly for the consumption of the same into our treasury. Hence we may safely infer that with regard to the difference of our respective tariffs, we shall not be sufferers by Union. There are, however, some who entertain the erroneous idea that all our revenue is to go to Canada, and then be lost to us forever. But will not Canada, I ask, give up her revenue? Most undoubtedly she will, and our separate resources will be united and consolidated, whence we will draw in order to pay the interest of our common debt, provide for our mutual wants, and procure the various ameliorations appertaining to the provision of the Central Government, and thus our revenues would be no more lost to us than would the moneys of the different countries when placed in the common chest. But we can possess none of those advantages of wealth and prosperity, unless by Union we gain a participation in the resources of Canada, and in this view we should eagerly desire to share its responsibilities, because every pound of her debt is nobly represented and more than overbalanced in its vast riches. Notwithstanding this, there are persons who, in a fit of frantic patriotism, exclaim, why should we, already so comfortable and so well situated in life, propose to form an alliance with poor, bankrupt Canada? Undoubtedly they forget, that this country extends from the Atlantic to the far West, running from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to Lake Huron—with a breadth of 300 or 400 miles—with a population of nearly 3,000,000—with magnificent towns and cities—flourishing villages,—numerous agricultural districts teeming with wealth—with a soil pregnant with fertility and mineral riches—a trade already immense and steadily increasing,—surely, readers and countrymen, this is not a country whose alliance we should scorn or reject; but which we should earnestly covet and pride in, in order that by a happy wedlock we may consolidate our doweries, and then participate in the real pleasure and comfort they must necessarily impart to us. Indeed, the comparative wealth of P. E. Island and Canada is that of the beggar and rich man. I should not, Mr. Editor, wish to exhibit marks of want of patriotism or of that profound affection we ought all to entertain for the soil which gave us birth; but I presume I may allege, with the least disparagement to P. E. Island, that the value of the rakes and hoes, the shovels and the forks, the harness and the ploughs of Canada is quite enough to pay the debt of the four Provinces with a residue of six millions of dollars; and if we count the live stock at its value in 1861, it would pay every farthing of the debt she owes. Not only that, it would likewise pay the debts of the Maritime Provinces, and still leave a surplus sufficient for a handsome capital for P. E. Island to commence business with. Yet we are gravely informed (or rather misinformed) that this mighty country (Canada) is just approaching the verge of bankruptcy; that we should repose no confidence in it; centre no hopes nor entrust to it our future political, social and moral condition. Rather should those idle thinkers *sit down and weep by the waters of Babylon*, that the day is apparently so far distant when these visions or contemplated dreams of the *unionists* are to assume the shade of reality.

Not to speak of free trade existing between the Provinces through the Union, and of the very pleasing effects flowing from it, I pass to notice sundry other advantages. Our fisheries will be protected and generally and generously patronized by the Canadians, who will settle along our coast and be the means of diffusing among us large quantities of money. Readers of Canadian history are well convinced of the fact that while P. E. Island was still under French rule, the inhabitants (or at least a great number of adventurers) of Nouvelle France, formed a rapid and expansive strain of emigration continually ebbing to our shores, but which began its reflux at the surrender of Quebec to the English under Wolfe. Nor shall the increased number of customers mar our markets, but will, on the contrary prove beneficial to them, for as a merchant can trade to better advantage with 100 customers than with one, so will 80,000 Islanders merchandise with greater success with the 4,000,000 customers that will attend our markets from the other Provinces. But the anti-unionists, still desirous of opposition, insist that on account of the more rapid increase of population in Canada than in P. E Island, this latter place will be lilterally swamped, and its representation will lose its relative importance. But far from this being the case, our opponents, by this process of reasoning, tear down, both roof and foundation, the whole fabric of their arguments, for as much as the population of Canada is augmented, in the same proportion shall our taxes be diminished, in order to equalize our shares. But, instead of marring our present state of improvement and prosperity, we will, on the contrary, ameliorate it. Here then is a country that is worth the ambition of our young men. Now, thousands are fertilizing the plains and valleys of the South with their blood, forced to leave their homes for want of means of employment; but the Confederation of the British Colonies will afford a home to our young men, will give them a field sufficiently wide to satisfy the cravings of the most ambitious, whether in a professional, political, or military line, and will finally be to them a shrine of peace and security. But for this we require a large revenue, yea, the united revenues of the several Provinces. The canals and the railways that are to be extended far West, will be most effectual in augmenting our common resources The object of the canals is that all sea-going vessels should be able to penetrate the whole of the way to the interior of the Great West; that the men whose avocation it is to be the carriers of the world, should have enlarged facilities for shipping; that instead of unloading and transhipping their cargoes in the lower ports of the St. Lawrence, they may proceed directly and without interruption to the great marts of the West. Thus the produce of this latter place will pass down to our seas through the Canadian canals, not, as at present, through the canals and railways of the Northern States, enriching their treasury and impoverishing our own.

I now come to the last and most important point which I purpose noticing in this communication, viz: our self-defence. All must admit that there exists no longer time for balancing, as the tide of destruction, horror and desolation is rolling rapidly to our shores. At what time our crimson blood may flow, we know not; but this much we have, by the close observation of recent events, been able to appreciate, to wit, that at what time soever our Yankee neighbors shall put an end to their destructive war, so soon shall they rush on us like blood-hounds, and woe to us if this war, heretofore considered only as a by-gone danger or as improbable as a volcanic eruption, should overtake us unprepared. Shall this Island become a second Gibraltar—surrounded by defences and excluded from all communication with the rest of our sister colonies, or shall we become free and secure by being united to the Confederacy. United or not, we will undergo the same risk and danger on the part of the Yankees, for union or disunion with Canada does not deprive us of our connection with the Mother Country, and our consequent implication in the supposed grievances of the North. But there are persons to allege that the Colonies should not be obliged to make any preparations of defence against the Northerners, as it was England, and she alone, who laid the first grounds for provocation. But this is a grievous error. The English Government has throughout maintained a strict neutrality, and is thereby conscious of having afforded no just cause of offence to the North. But have not private individuals assisted the Southern Confederacy with money, ships, ammunition of war, &c.? True, and it is quite natural. Every man has his own prejudices and his own sympathies, over which the law of the land has no jurisdiction. In this manner, the English people entertain their vain ideas of *right* and *wrong* with respect to the American rebellion; they therefore favoured the Southerners, and even aided them largely in the prosecution of the war. In fact, who, I ask, that has carefully watched the whole course of their actions, would not sympathize with those brave and intrepid defenders of their homes and altars? No man of the smallest perception can then justly attribute to England any blame or reproach as to the war that menaces us; but, on the contrary, let us all unite, perceiving our Mother Country entangled in various difficulties, and assist in our own defence. She will not and cannot be expected to protect us alone; and if we make no efforts on our part, we may rest assured that our doom is sealed the moment our Parent Country leaves us to our miserable and well-merited fate; while there is little danger of our being defeated, should we present to the enemy a front of people well armed, disciplined and watchful, fighting for their rights, their laws, their liberty, and their country. WILLOCKS.

Charlottetown, Jan 28th, 1865.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Dear Sir:—

The editorial article of the *Protestant* of Saturday last relative to the Confederation meeting held at the Temperance Hall on Friday evening, contains some misstatements which, in justice to the Charlottetown Debating Society, as well as to the Hon. Mr. Haviland, who is unjustly accused of "calling in question the arrangements of the Society," should be corrected.

At the regular meeting of the Debating Society, held previous to last Friday, the arrangements for the Confederation meeting were submitted by the committee and unanimously adopted by the Society. These arrangements provided that *Mr. David Laird, as President of the Society, in conformity with the 9th rule of the Constitution, should occupy the chair.* Accordingly Mr. Laird *took* the *chair for the evening*, but as soon as the Hon. W. H Pope finished his address, Mr. Laird, in the face of the previous arrangement, jumped out of the Chair. "Scorched" by the arguments of the opener, his seat grew too hot for him, and he bellowed out to one of the Committee to take his place. Mr. Calbeck, moved with compassion, responded to the President's call, and he, Mr. David Laird, the President of the Society, under whose auspices the meeting was convened, immediately sprang to the floor, as the leading champion of the anti-Unionists. Hon. Mr. Haviland then asked if this extraordinary and unprecedented movement on the part of the President was in conformity with the rules of the Society, to whom Mr. Laird replied—(I regret to say incorrectly)—by stating that he had acted in conformity with the arrangements of the Society. Mr. Laird cannot point out to any rule or precedent in defence of his conduct, neither can he fall back on any arrangement made by the Committee or Society in extenuation of his unheard of proceedings on that occasion.

The truth is, Mr. Editor, that Mr. David Laird was the only man found in the ranks of the anti-Unionists who would attempt to reply to the able address of the Hon. W. H Pope, he therefore rendered the Society, of which he is President, subservient to the interests of his party.

In his clumsy attempt at apologising for his conduct to the meeting, he *modestly* stated that as he had studied the question better than any of the speakers on his side, he felt that he was the best qualified to reply to the address of the opener!

The Hon. Mr. Haviland, so far from calling in question the "arrangements of the Society," emphatically stated that if Mr. Laird's conduct was according to the rules of the Society he would "bow with submission" to the arrangments.

So much for the truthfulness of the *Protestant*. For the present I will only remark that it ill becomes Mr Laird, whose indistinct articulation reminds one of a badly trained ventriloquist, to sneer at what he calls the "high sounding efforts" of any person. Yours, &c.,

A MEMBER

of the Charlottetown Debating Society.

Monday, Feb. 6th, 1865.

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir:—In your paper of the 16th you republish an article from the Toronto *Globe*, which you think proper to style a disposition of Mr. Palmer's objections to Confederation; and in your introductory remarks you say that "as his silly objections are repeated by other people, a refutation of them may serve to prevent his delusions from spreading." Now, without attempting or wishing to defend Mr. P., I think you could not have published anything so well calculated to "serve" to increase the spread of "his delusions" as the *Globe's* article, as it amounts to nothing more or less than an admission that Mr. Palmer's arguments are quite conclusive. It merely disposes of his arguments this far: that it is unreasonable for us to desire to enter the Union on any other terms than an equal footing with all the other Provinces; but does it dispose of Mr. P.'s arguments wherein he shows clearly that for us to enter the proposed Union on apparently equal terms would be decidedly disadvantageous *to Prince Edward Island?* Oh no; so far from this, it virtually admits the truth of Mr P.'s arguments, but wishes to dispose of them on account of their unfairness. I should wish to ask you, Mr. Editor, where does the *Globe* dispose of those of Mr. P.'s objections, of which he gives us a summary, in the following words: "He is disposed to insinuate that the Canadian Ministers humbugged nearly all the delegates from the Maritime Provinces—the astute Mr. Palmer of course excepted—but he thinks those of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick made pretty good bargains, Mr. Tilley, of the latter Province, being especially sharp when money was in question. These two Provinces get the Intercolonial Railway—or, as Mr. P. smartly puts it, the Grand Trunk Railway—so, if they are to be heavily taxed, if they are to be swallowed up by Canada, they will have something to shew for it. But poor P. E. Island, of all others, gets nothing but the prospect of handsome taxation. She is to pay out large sums of money for purposes actually detrimental to her interests; she is to pay a tariff of 25 per cent. in place of 10, as at present; her brave sons are, in the event of war, to be drawn away from her own territory to fight in defence of Canadian soil; and in return for all this she is to get absolutely nothing." Now, I ask, where does the *Globe* dispose of the above? It certainly does not in the article in question, or if it does, I am really at a loss to know where to find it.

The *Globe* does not deny that Prince Edward Island will be taxed to help to fortify and defend Canada; but, in answer to Mr. P.'s arguments, proving the same, says:—"Dreadful, is it not? If fortifications are to be built at all, they should be built where they are most needed." Now, we are aware that fortifications will be most needed in Upper Canada, and I ask why should the people of P. E Island voluntarily take upon their shoulders the burthen of assisting to fortify and defend Canada when we can do much better without it? If the Canadians are in dread of Yankee invasion—which I believe they are—why let them fortify and defend themselves, without the assistance of miserable little Prince Edward Island, and if old England thinks we are worth defending and protecting, she will do it, and if not, she will give us up to those who will.

Again, the *Globe* says: "The other complaint is, if possible, even more preposterous. The people of the whole Confederation would be quite as much bound to defend Upper Canada, in case of need, as they would be to defend Prince Edward Island, or any other section under the same circumstances, but not one whit more" But does not the editor of the *Globe* know, as well as every other wide-awake Canadian, that in consequence of the geographical position of the two Provinces, P. E. Islanders would be bound a great many whits more to defend Upper Canada than they would be to defend even their own provinces, and without Confederation, as a Colony, we should not have to defend ourselves at all, as Britain's "wooden walls" are quite a reliable defence for us.

Perhaps many will say that it is injustice for to require the "Mother Country" to defend us against a foreign foe; but I think, according to your own reasoning in your articles on the "Land Question," that Britain is in justice very much indebted to Prince Edward Island, and as there is no hope of our getting our just due, in the manner which you argue that we should, it is surely the least we ought to expect that she should defend that land whose people she has made slaves. If your reasoning is sound, and if England is in honor bound to emancipate her slaves in P. E. Island by a grant from the Imperial Treasury, which honor she has violated by withholding said grant, surely it is not too much to expect that she will defend us against a foreign power. If that money is due us, and they will not grant it, why let us get it out of them the best way we can.

We are nearly all against the Union down here, Mr. Editor, and I hope our Representatives will not betray their trust and rashly decide and vote upon a subject for the settlement of which we did not return them as our representatives. Nobody represents in Parliament the people of Prince Edward Island on the question of Union; and I am satisfied, if an appeal be made to the people on that question, that Mr. Palmer and his friends will remain masters of "the situation." Yours, &c.

THOS. CLAY.

Dundas, Jan. 23rd, 1865.

The Examiner.

Charlottetown, February 6, 1865.

ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The English Mail arrived here, partly on Saturday night, and partly, we understand, last night. The news from Europe is not important; but we make room for the following items, as furnished by the *European Times*, of the 21st, which is the latest date received:—

SPAIN.

Madrid, Jan. 20.—The government has introduced a bill in the Cortes proposing that the land-tax should be paid in advance. Count D'Eu has resigned his commission as captein in the Spanish army.

ITALY.

Rome, Jan. 20—The police have discovered the authors and accomplices of the robberies and assaults which have recently taken place here during the night, and 32 arrests have been made. The assaults have since ceased.

AUSTRIA.

Vienna, Jan. 20.—An imperial rescript, addressed to the Ban of Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia, has been published to-day, ordering the assembling of a conference of the highest functionaries for the purpose of discussing the manner in which the elections to the Diet of those provinces are to be conducted next spring.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Bucharest, Jan. 20.—The address of the chamber, in reply to Prince Couza's speech at the opening of the session, was presented to the Prince to-day. All the members of the chamber accompanied the deputation to the palace to present the address, and made a warm demonstration of devotion to the prince.

PRUSSIA.

Berlin, Jan. 20—In to-day's sitting of the Lower House, Herren Fwesten and Assman presented a report, in the name of the committee, on the address, proposing that the draft of an address introduced by Herr Reichenspeiger, and also the one introduced by Herr Wagner, should be rejected. The discussion on the address will commence on the full sitting of the House, on the 24th. The Committee of the Upper House, on the address, would hold a meeting this evening, at which Herr von Bismark had been invited to be present.

DENMARK.

Copenhagen, Jan. 20.—In to-day's sitting of the Rigsraad, the minister of finance presented a bill proposing the abolition of all transit duties in Denmark.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

Kiel, Jan. 20.—At a meeting of Holstein Land proprieties, held at Hohenwestedt, on the 18th inst., it was determined to present an address to the Sovereigns of Austria and Prussia. The address commences by stating that the former one presented by Baron von Scheel Plessia had drawn down upon the persons by whom it was signed the indignation of an overwhelming majority of the population. It then urgently requests the convocation of the estates, and concludes by demanding that the rights and desires of Schleswig-Holstein to exist under their own duke, as a part of Germany, be granted without restriction.

THE RUMOURED DISPATCH OF TROOPS TO CANADA.

The London Globe contains the following paragraph:—Telegrams from New York, published in some of our morning contemporaries, state that rumors prevail in Canada that British troops are about to embark for that country to meet a possible war with England, which is to result from the recognition of the South by England and France, and that the same reports were current at Washington We have authority for stating that these reports are absolutely without foundation.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE PROVINCES.

We received by the Mails of Saturday night extensive files of Canadian papers, from all of which we learn that a good deal of discontent exists on the frontier with regard to the threatening attitude of the United States Government, which have given most unmistakeable indications of their intention to break up, at an early day, the friendly relations that have so long subsisted between Great Britain and the United States. The abominable passport nuisance is enforced with relentless bitterness by the American authorities, so that travelling between the Provinces and the States may be said to be practically at an end. The towns and cities on both sides of the border are of course suffering extensively from this barbarous procedure of the Washington Government. But the autocrat at the White House, and his servile Minister Seward, are deaf to the voice of reason and insensible to the promptings of justice.

The practical repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty by a large majority in the Federal Legislature—the avowed intention of the Americans to put gunboats on the lakes, as soon as they can possibly do so with regard to existing treaty stipulations—and their demand for a repeal of the extradition treaty—all show that they meditate hostilities towards these Provinces and Great Britain. The Parliament of Canada, now in session, are not insensible to the danger by which all the Provinces are alike menaced, and are making such provision for our common defence as will have the effect, we trust, of teaching the American Government that intimidation, bluster, and positive suspension of international friendly relations on their part, will be allowed to pass for what they are worth on the British side of the lines. The American Government and people look with a jealous eye on the proposed Confederation of the Colonies, but they could not hasten that measure more effectually—they could not inspire British Americans with a loftier sentiment of loyalty, and a profounder loathing for the Government of the Northern States than are to be found in the legislative and executive acts of hostility which have lately been committed at Washington against the British Provinces, and which have been not only applauded by journals that represent the views of the American Government, but threats of further vengeance have been freely uttered by the same journals. If a quarrel should unfortunately be forced upon Great Britain by a nation which, after four years, has failed to subdue a so-called "rebellion" in a portion of its own so-called territory, where, at the commencement of the strife, the so-called "rebels" had neither an army nor a navy to assist them—we think that Great Britain has no reason to fear the result of a contest, should she be forced into it by the bad temper of Brother Jonathan.

The Canadian Parliament met on the 19th ult., as our readers were apprised in our last issue by telegraph. The Speech from the throne is chiefly occupied with reference to the existing relations between Canada and the United States—the transportation of Volunteers to the frontier to preserve neutrality—the organization of the Militia,—and the proposed Federation of the Colonies. On the latter subject, Lord Monck dwelt at considerable length, eulogising the scheme of Federation agreed to at the Quebec Conference.

His Lordship's remarks upon it are as follows:

At the close of the last session of Parliament I informed you that it was my intention, in conjunction with my ministers, to prepare and submit to you a measure for the solution of the constitutional problem, the discussion of which has for some years agitated this Province.

A careful consideration of the general position of British North America induced the conviction that the circumstances of the times afforded the opportunity not merely for the settlement of a question of Provincial politics, but also for the simultaneous creation of a new nationality.

Preliminary negotiations were opened by me with the Lieutenant Governors of the other Provinces of British North America, and the result was that a meeting was held at Quebec, in the month of October last, composed of delegates from those Colonies, representing all shades of political party in their several communities nominated by the Lieutenant Governors of their respective Provinces who assembled here, with the sanction of the Crown, and at my invitation, to confer with the members of the Canadian Ministry on the possibility of effecting a union of all the Provinces of British North America.

This Conference, after lengthened deliberations, arrived at the conclusion that a Federal Union of these Provinces was feasible and desirable, and the result of its labors is a plan of Constitution for the proposed union embodied in a series of resolutions, which, with other papers relating to the subject, I have directed to be laid before you.

The general design of a union, and the particular plan by which it is proposed to carry that intention into effect, have both received the cordial approbation of the imperial Government.

An Imperial Act of Parliament will be necessary in order to give effect to the contemplated Union of the Colonies, and I have been officially informed by the Secretary of State that Her Majesty's Ministers will be prepared to introduce a Bill for that purpose into the Imperial Parliament so soon as they shall have been notified that the proposal has received the sanction of the Legislatures representing the several provinces affected by it.

In commending to your attention this subject, the importance of which to yourselves and to your descendants it is impossible to exaggerate, I would claim for it your calm, earnest and impartial consideration.

With the public men of British North America it now rests to decide whether the vast tract of country which they inhabit shall be consolidated into a state, combining within its area all the elements of National greatness, providing for the security of its component parts, and contributing to the strength and stability of the Empire, or whether the several Provinces of which it is constituted shall remain in their present fragmentary and isolated condition, comparatively powerless for mutual aid, and incapable of undertaking their proper share of Imperial responsibility.

In the discussion of an issue of such moment, I fervently pray that your minds may be guided to conclusions which shall redound to the honor of our Sovereign, to the welfare of Her subjects, and to your own reputation as patriots and statesmen.

Parliament was adjourned from Thursday, the 19th until Monday, the 23rd; and then when the answer to the Speech came up for discussion, the matter was disposed of in one short sitting, and the answer to the Speech adopted by a majority of 70 against 17. Only two members in the Legislative Assembly—Messrs. Dorion and Dunkin—spoke against Confederation. The former gentleman proposed the following amendment to the Address in answer to the Speech:—"This House deems it a duty respectfully to express to your Excellency its firm conviction that the people of this Province, fully appreciating the blessings of their existing political relations with the great Empire of which they form a part, neither seek nor wish to create a new nationality." As we have said above, only the mover and one other member spoke in favour of this amendment; and the overwhelming majority in favour of the original address shows that Confederation is practically settled in Canada.—In the Legislative Council, two members spoke against Confederation, but when the Address was put to vote, no division was called for, and the Legislative Council may, therefore, be said to have unanimously affirmed the principles of Confederation.

From New Brunswick, we learn that the Hon. Mr. Hatheway, a member of the Executive Council of that Province, has resigned his seat at the Board, stating, as his reason for doing so, that he cannot support Confederation. The House of Assembly of New Brunswick will be dissolved on Wednesday next, to give the people of the province a chance of expressing their views on Confederation. It is not likely that Mr. Tilley—who is the master spirit of the Government, the indomitable advocate of Confederation, and the virtuous depository of the power by which the Parliament of his Province can be dissolved—would resort to a dissolution at this season of the year, unless he was fully confident that his Province would pronounce a most emphatic opinion in favour of his pet measure.

As regards Nova Scotia, there will be no dissolution in that province to test the question of Confederation. The Report of the Quebec Conference will be submitted to the Legislature of Nova Scotia, in the course of the present month, and the Government there have no doubt that it will be agreed to by a large majority in both Houses of Parliament. This is doing exactly as the Canadian Government propose to do, so that the consummation of the measure may not be delayed.

With respect to this blessed Island, we cannot make any favourable report of the prospects of Confederation. A good many well meaning people are under the impression that Canada and the other rich provinces of the continent are meditating a foul design against us, and wanting to get us to help them out of their financial difficulties—to pay their debts, build their railways, and fight their battles on the frontiers. Thus dismissing such silly apprehensions, we must let Prince Edward Island enjoy its nap in its "sleepy hollow," until a touch from the other side of the Atlantic wave—if not a sense of duty—shall arouse it from its supine and degraded condition.

THE COLONIAL MINISTER ON CONFEDERATION OF THE COLONIES.

The Right Hon. E. Cardwell, Secretary of State for the Colonies, lately addressed his constituents at Oxford, referring to certain public affairs, and, in the course of his speech, spoke in terms of high laudation of the scheme of Colonial Confederation agreed to at the Quebec Convention. The Right Honorable Gentleman said:—

"Gentlemen, I have read, and I am sure that you have looked with great interest to, the news which you have received from the Northern States of America, not only because you view with deep sympathy and regret the sufferings which the continuance of the conflict in that country has occasioned, but because you have been shocked to see that danger has been anticipated lest friendly relations should be interrupted and other countries be made the scene of preparing hostile operations against a friendly Power. (Hear, hear.) I am not now in a position to speak on the precise merits of the questions that have arisen, but I have no hesitation in assuring you of my entire conviction that no men are more sensible than Lord Monck (the Governor-General of Canada) and his advisers of that which is due to the honor of the British Crown and to the inviolate neutrality of the British territory. (Hear.) You may be certain that if the present law in Canada be adequate they will carry it into execution with promptitude and vigour, and that if the present law be found inadequate it will not be long suffered to remain so. (Cheers.) And, gentlemen, what a spectacle have our fellow-subjects in British North America presented to the world. They have seen in the last 15 or 20 years nearly every throne in Europe shaken, and they now see the great republic of their own continent the scene of civil convulsion and of civil war; they remember with pride and gratitude that they are the subjects of a throne as ancient as the oldest European monarchy, and they live under institutions as free as any that ever were known in the history of mankind. They have conceived a noble ambition; they have designed to form, I venture to say, a nation, but not a nation divided from the allegiance which they owe to the British throne, nor seperated from the institutions under which it is their pride to live, nor estranged from the associations and attachments which bind them to the mother country. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, I have had the opportunity of reading able speeches made by leading statesmen in North America to their constituents, and I may say to you in passing, what I am sure will interest you as it interests me, that the President of the Council of Canada delivers his speeches to the electors of Oxford; and when he was in this country the other day I asked him what sort of a place Oxford was, and he replied to me, with pardonable pride, that Oxford was the garden of Canada; and I said that I hoped when he returned to this country in May he would visit with me the gardens and buildings of ancient Oxford (cheers) "and then," "you may report to your constituents, from your own experience, how worthy is the city whose name you have adopted, and how great is the reputation which it enjoys among the cities of the ancient world." But, as I was saying, in a spirit of the most fervent loyalty to the British Throne, in a close attachment to the British Crown, and in devotion to British institutions, they have desired to form all the northern provinces of the eastern coast into one great confederation. An assembly was held, composed of delegates comprising all parties, who adopted unanimous resolutions, which resolutions were reported to the Government of their Sovereign. I believe it is well understood by you that the Government of this country lost no time in expressing to them their cordial sanction and approval of the proceedings which had taken place at the conference. I believe that it will have your support, and the support and approval of the entire community. (Cheers.) It now remains for the Legislatures of the respective provinces to decide on the course which they will adopt, and the ultimate decision will be reserved for the Imperial Parliament. (Hear.) But I think you will agree with me that it will be a very satisfactory day for the mother country if those communities which have grown up under her throne shall be united into a great and powerful community, with all that independence which belongs to the British race, and able and willing to make sacrifices and exertions in their own defence, and ready to take their place among the powerful communities of the world. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, it is given to other countries to be great and powerful empires, but it has been given to England alone to be also the mother of great and free communities. In the last century we governed our colonies with too much regard to our own views, and too little regard to their views and interests. The result was a disastrous and discreditable conflict, and in the end we were compelled to say what we had much better have avowed in the beginning, "Wayward children, depart in peace." There is no subject of the Queen of England who wishes now to depart from the British Constitution. What the policy of coercion could not do, the policy of confidence has effected. (Hear.) But some people say, "Well, but you are now taking the other extreme, and are governing your colonies too much for the benefit of the colonies, and too much at the cost of the mother country." Well, I am ready to admit, and I am sure the colonies will assent, that no permanent and enduring connexion can be formed upon that basis and that principle. But what the colonists will be ready to assent to, and what we shall be prepared to go along with them to establish, is a connexion founded upon the enduring principles of mutual sympathy, of mutual interest, of mutual advantage; and I believe that England may be proud to be the parent of such colonies, and that the day may come when they will be both able and willing to repay the assistance and protection which they have received from the mother country, and when England, speaking as the parent of those distant communities, may say she will be glad to have her quiver full of them, and she will not be ashamed when she speaks with her enemy at the gate. (Hear, hear.)"

A LEARNED JUDGE ON CONFEDERATION.

The Honorable Judge Wilmot, in a late charge to the Grand Jury of the County of York, New Brunswick, gave utterence to the following admirable observations on the proposed union of the Colonies. When an Archbishop and a Judge thus voluntarily come forward in support of so great a measure, we may rest assured that their deliverances will exercise a great and well merited influence over the minds of their fellow Colonists:—

After refering to the light duties devolving upon the Grand Jury, and expressing his satisfaction at seeing a full attendance, his honor said that he would not be doing justice to his feelings if he were to say nothing more on the present occasion. In that very hall he had laboured as a Representative for a period of 16 years, and in concert with his colleagues had successfully contended for the political rights and constitutional privileges of the people of this Province. The questions then settled were highly important, but when compared with the question of Colonial Confederation now before the public, they were of small moment. Never before in the history of these Provinces had a subject been presented for the consideration of the Provincial Legislatures of such vast proportions, and involving such important issues. In his opinion it involved the consolidation of British interests, and the permanence of British institutions and British liberty on the North American Continent. The question was not new to him; it was one to which he gave much consideration while a Representative. After having occupied for about two years his present position, he was solicited to resume his political life, and allow himself to be again elected as a Representative. His answer was that there was only one question that could ever induce him again to enter a political arena, and that was the Union of the Provinces. At that time there were so many difficulties in the way that he despaired of its accomplishment. Many circumstances had conspired of late to make it desirable, and leading statesmen from the several Provinces had been convened to deliberate on the subject, and well and nobly had they done their work. He was delighted to know that gentlemen from these Provinces could be found who, in the short space of time taken for deliberation, could present a scheme so masterly, so comprehensive, so coherent, and displaying such a thorough acquaintance with the great constitutional principles involved and so caculated to establish and consolidate a British American nationality. It is assuring to us all that we have the men for the emergency The movement was strong evidence of a Provincial manhood, and an assurance to the mother country that we had not forgotten our obligations for past favors. We did owe something in return for our early nurture, and our continuing protection and defence, and what return had we yet made?

When the Loyalists of 1783 sought refuge in this then wilderness land, they were fostered and protected by the mother country. For many years a large portion of the expenses of our Government were borne on the estimates before the British Parliament. They had grown and increased in wealth and population, and it was reasonably expected that whatever they could do to add to the Imperial strength, they ought to do. As the Provinces now were they had all the weakness of disunion and political isolation, and to unite our interests, to combine our forces, would be a pledge that we were preparing to do our duty as a part of the great Empire, not only in the preservation of Constitutional liberty and the development of our vast resources, but in the protection of our homes and our altars from foreign aggression.

He believed that under Providence our destiny was in our own hands. Whether we should consolidate and extend our power from the Atlantic to the Pacific—whether we would lay the foundation broad and deep of a great British American Nationality depended upon ourselves. To remain as we were, seperated from each other, was out of the question, and it would be strange if the people were frightened out of this Confederation by the cry of taxation. That was the "raw-head and-bloody-bones," which political nurses employed to terrify their children into obedience. If it were proposed to give up the right of taxation to an irresponsible power, there would be something in it, but when it comes to taxation by representatives, and a continually recurring responsibility of the Representatives to their constituencies, the security against over taxation remained with the people. To say that we should be oppressed and ruined by excessive taxation, therefore, was worse than a fallacy; but if we should be called upon to contribute a little more to the revenue, we should gain tenfold more than an equivalent in the increase of the general prosperity.

If we were desirous of putting our country in the best condition to resist invasion—if we would give a fresh impulse to the manufacturing skill and industry of the country—if we wanted a more extended field for commerce—if we would impart new life to our Educational institutions—if we would keep at home our young men of skill and talent, and give them a greater scope for effort and reward—if we would have railway *inter-communication throughout the colonies*—if we would attract to our country the skill and capital of other countries—then—there was no measure which would so certainly secure the attainment of all those ends as the proposed scheme of Confederation.

Doubtless men would differ on this question, for every man had a right to his opinion; but he believed that the more the matter was discussed, and the better it was understood, the more certain would be its approval and adoption by the people.

It must be remembered that even now, in our present isolation, our destinies were linked together, and surely we have not lost sympathy for each other. When our position was threatened in 1839, Nova Scotia spoke out manfully. Her Legislature, amidst cheers and acclamations, resolved to place the whole available resources of the Province in the hands of the Government to assist us in case of emergency, and no doubt she would do so again. Was it right, then, to keep such people apart. We should be under one Government, and combine our energies and our resources, as we must stand or fall together.

It had been our good fortune to live in peace, while the neighboring States were torn asunder by a most terrible civil war; but there were many indications which warn us that we ought to do what we can to prepare for our defence, and what had we done? He had said before the Militia Commission in the presence of members of the Government, and he would then repeat it, that he was ashamed of his native Province, because of the little that had been done to prepare our people to take part in defence of the country. We were behind all the other Provinces in this respect. Before long the necessity for calling out the militia might arise. They will be drafted and sent to the front, and they will go—undisciplined—unprepared, and 20,000 men will not be equal to 5,000 disciplined men, and a terrible penalty will be paid. They will be thrown into confusion and slaughtered in heaps for want of discipline, and the fault will lie at the doors of political economists.

He did not wonder that our neighbours were irritated because of a recent raid executed by men who for the time were living under the protection of our Government. If persons who are hostile to the Federal States domicile with us, and take occasion to plan and execute incursions into the adjoining States for the purpose of arson and robbery—it is such a gross violation of the obligations of neutrality that they owe, while here, to our Government, that every loyal citizen should feel it to be his duty, if cognizant of those plans, to immediately give such information to the authorities as might enable them to prevent it. Our country ought not to be made a sanctuary for robbers and murderers and incendiaries. There was a great, a solemn national duty imposed upon us in this matter, and it should be honestly discharged by every loyal citizen. If hordes of banditti should come to our country and successfully resist the power of our Government to put them down and prevent their incursion upon the neighbouring States—in such case our impotence would justify the country suffering from their incursions to come into our territory and do what we could not do, because in such case the hostile organization becomes the governing power, and therefore it would be for the benefit of the overpowered legitimate authority, as it would be for the relief of the people suffering from their incursions, to put them down and bring them to justice. But no such case had arisen, and we had no reason to think that it ever would.

To return to the great question of Colonial Confederation, he would say, before he dismissed them to their duty, that so deeply impressed was he with the value and necessity of it, that if he were assured that his vote in the Legislature would secure the consummation of it, he would not hesitate a moment to put himself at the disposal of any constituency that would confer on him the distinguished honor of enabling him to decide such an important question. He had plainly expressed his opinion on the great question of Confederation simply because he felt it his duty to do so. He had no objections whatever to his opinions being circulated throughout the country; and as to the time and place and manner of expressing his opinions on any great question of the day, he would always claim the right to judge for himself.

ANOTHER CANADIAN OPINION OF MR. PALMER.

The Montreal *Weekly Herald* of the 21st ult. makes the following allusions to Mr. Palmer's deceitful conduct in reference to the Quebec Conference:—

"Authenticated."—This was the singularly chosen word used to explain the intention of the signatures to the Quebec protocol of the proceedings of Conference. Usually the Chairman or Secretary "authenticate" the report of such transactions; but this report received the signatures of the members of the Conference. The employment of the word is now explained by Mr. Palmer of Prince Edward Island. He objected to sign the report lest he might by so doing commit himself to an agreement with the resolutions it set forth, and several other delegates were of the same mind. He was, he says, actually preparing a protest against them when he found that the original form of the document was altered, and the following sentence proposed in order to have no dissent apparent on the face of the paper, and at the same time prevent its contents from being binding upon the conduct of any of the signers:—

"'The proceedings of the Conference shall be *authenticated* by the signatures of the delegates, and submitted by each delegation to its own Government,' &c., (as above.)

"After this alteration, it was again and repeatedly declared, to satisfy the desire of several of the delegates beside myself, that our signatures should not bind us to the contents of the report, and with this assurance all the delegates subscribed to the report."

Whatever the merits may be of Mr. Palmer's objections, we cannot think that he presents himself in a very manly manner before the world. If all that he says be true, as we dare say it is, a subterfuge was proposed to him and he accepted it. Whatever the strict grammatical meaning of the word chosen, and one easily comprehends that there was a special reason for choosing this word, the effect of the publication of a set of resolutions, signed by a number of gentlemen, with no mark of dissent from any, was to give rise to the belief that all approved that to which all had set their names. Mr. Palmer must have known that that was the object which his colleagues had in trying to obtain his signature, and in giving it them he, therefore, consented to mislead the public. A great political movement can neither be made nor resisted by such weak arts as these. Mr. Palmer's cause may be thoroughly right; but he proves himself to be thoroughly wrong.

THE PASSPORT SYSTEM.

The beautiful passport system which the United States Government have adopted to exclude British Colonists *from their territory*, is not only likely to make travelling into that country difficult, if not impracticable, but when Consular Agents will graciously permit it, travellers will have to pay smartly for the luxury. There are some very good people here who think annexation to the United States would be preferrable to Confederation. To be sure annexation would relieve *them* from the passport system, but God forbid that our lot should ever be thrown in with that of a country where so vile and despotic a system can be put in force, at a moment's notice, and at the mere caprice of one irresponsible individual. The following order from the Department of State at Washington will show the cost, if not the difficulty, of obtaining a passport:—

"Department of State, Washington, Jan. 14, 1865.

Consular officers in territories conterminious with the United States on their north and north-eastern frontiers, are hereby authorized to receive U. S. currency in payment for passports, so long as the order of December 17th, 1864, shall remain in force, bearing in mind that the law requires five dollars as a fee for issuing a passport, which amount is payable into the U. S. Treasury, and in foreign countries with a consular fee of one dollar in addition. The existing regulations by which consular agents were forbidden to give passports, are rescinded for the period above mentioned.

If any person shall have been charged more than the regular fees, as they are herein mentioned, the excess will be refunded to him by the consul to whom the sum was paid, and such repayment will be reported to the Department. A uniform rate of charge is expected and enjoined. Passports to enter British Provinces will be promptly issued by this Department on application in accordance with the passport regulations.

(Signed) W. H. Seward.

☞ By reference to the advertising columns of this day's issue it will be seen that a Grand Military Ball is to be given in the Drill Room, in this City, next Wednesday evening. We are assured that it is contemplated by the Managing Committee to make it a great affair.

Weather permitting, the City Volunteer Companies, and one or two of the Companies near Charlottetown, will be inspected by the Commander-in-Chief at 3, p.m, on Wednesday, 8th February, on the pond near Government House. At 11 30, a. m, on Thursday, 9th February, the Military School will be inspected and examined at the Armory. The School will close on that day.

The last *Royal Gazette* contains a Proclamation convening the General Assembly, for the Despatch of Business, on Tuesday, the 28th day of February instant.

It is reported in Quebec—we know not on what authority—that fourteen thousand troops are under orders to leave England for this Province. The rumors of military preparations which have prevailed lately appear to cause some uneasiness in Washington. In a despatch to a New York paper it is stated that "England has for some time been quietly organizing a military force in Canada, and that an order peremptorily refusing leave of absence to officers in the best regiments of the British army has been issued." In the opinion of the correspondent these preparations point to an early recognition of the Southern Confederacy by England and France.—*Ottawa Citizen.*

The City of Quebec was lately the scene of a most brutal murder. The victim is a person named Jean Julien, who kept a *cabane* near the Marine Hospital. About the hour of midnight four or five men came to his house and demanded admittance and whiskey. He no sooner opened the door, in compliance with their request, than one of the ruffians levelled a pistol at his head and fired. By stooping he avoided the shot. A second was immediately fired, which took effect, entering at the upper part of the nose, passing under the skull to the right temple. The murderers then decamped, leaving the poor man bleeding on the ice. He shortly afterwards died of the injuries received. No clue has yet been discovered to the perpetrators of this most atrocious deed.

The Mexican Question.—When the Diplomatic Appropriation bill came up in the Senate, Senator Wade moved to amend the clause making appropriation "for diplomatic and consular expenses in Mexico," by inserting before the word "Mexico," the words "the republic of." He said there were two governments in Mexico, and he would recognize none but the "Republic." We had nothing to do with the "Empire." The amendment of Mr. Wade was adopted. The bill was then passed.