

sections, or in its mode of support. Having comprehended the bearing and effect of these provisions if applied to the city, I felt unwilling to assume the responsibility of enforcing them, since it would involve a minute subdivision of the city, wholly unsuited to its peculiarities, and most disastrous to the future and permanent interests of its schools.

Having laid the whole case before the Council of Public Instruction, I was directed to inform the Inspector and the Board of Commissioners that it was not deemed judicious, for the reasons above named, to exact from the city the mode of support prescribed by the law, until some provision should be made specially adapted to meet the circumstances of the case.

I would propose the following arrangement as a special provision in a new Act:—Each Ward to be a school section; each school section to secure a board of Trustees in the same manner as all other sections; each board of Trustees to discharge the same duties as all other boards of Trustees, and in the same manner, except in the levying of assessments. The several boards of Trustees should together form a Halifax School Committee, electing annually a President and a Secretary; and this Committee should be empowered to levy the necessary expenditures upon the rate-payers of the whole city. The assessment should be collected in each ward by the Secretary to the board of Trustees, the results of the collection reported to the school committee, and the amount apportioned to the boards of Trustees according to the requirements of the several sections.

I deem it essential to the efficient management of the schools, that each ward have a board of Trustees exercising special jurisdiction over its schools.

On the plan now proposed, the city could participate in the amount raised for schools by county assessment.

It should also be provided that the law, so far as relates to providing school houses and lands, as well as to the election of Trustees to take these matters in hand, should come into operation in the city of Halifax in May next. This would be necessary in order that the whole matter of school accommodation might be properly arranged against the annual meeting in the autumn, or the beginning of the school year in November.

The "Arrangements for School Inspection," Mr. Rand proposes to have materially changed. This work, he suggests, might be done more efficiently and economically by seven men, wholly devoted to the work,—having the province divided into seven parts for this special purpose.

There are over fourteen hundred sections within the bounds of the thirty-four Districts. Many sections will require, and will efficiently support, more than one department or school. In a brief period, on the supposition that the Legislature fosters a progressive system of schools, there will be not less than fourteen hundred schools subject to inspection; and not more than two schools can be properly inspected in a day. This will fully occupy not less than two hundred days; and when Sabbaths, holidays, vacations, and detention by bad roads are deducted, and the duties of each Inspector in connection with five Boards of Commissioners, public meetings, and other necessary duties of his office are included, it will be evident that seven men will find full employment.

The payment to the Teachers from the Provincial Grant, it is proposed, shall be sent by mail directly from the office of the Superintendent on the order of the Commissioners.

Since the preparation of the above we find that on Friday last, the Hon. Provincial Secretary introduced a new bill entitled "A Bill for the better encouragement of Education" which embodies most of the above suggestions, and further provides for an appropriation of \$90,000 to be divided among the several counties for the support of Common Schools,—being nearly double the former grant for this purpose,—to which is to be added a sum equal to two-thirds of said sum, to be raised by Assessment, in each county, at the same time and manner as that raised for general county purposes, forming a part of the County Rates. This amount to be employed in supporting a Free School in each Section in the Province. Any Section may, either by Subscription or Assessment make an addition, to said amount (derived from the Provincial Grant and County Assessment combined), for the purpose of enabling their Trustees to secure the services of a more efficient Teacher than said sum would command. There are several other important improvements but we must defer any remarks in reference to them for another occasion.

CONFEDERATION MATTERS.

The Confederation Question is still effecting curious manifestations in political circles. The Hon. Joseph Howe is said to be the principal writer of the Anti-Federation articles for the *Morning Chronicle*, and is charged, by both the *Colonist* and *Unionist*, with contradicting all his past professions on the subject. The *Chronicle* does not deny the paternity, but objects to the charge.

Mr. Archibald maintains his position in the Assembly as leader of the Opposition,

and the Hon. Mr. McCully the same in the Legislative Council, notwithstanding their action as Delegates to the Quebec Conference, and their warm advocacy of Confederation in harmony with the Hon. Provincial Secretary.

The Press is in a general lull on the subject. The *Charlottetown Protestant and Witness* has heretofore pretty clearly reflected the Halifax *Presbyterian Witness*, but now treats the latter with irony and sarcasm, and advocating Confederation. The *Citizen* makes use of this to tell its quondam friend—the *Witness*, that:—

"It seems the *Charlottetown Witness* saw the little tricky way of arguing Confederation adopted by the Halifax *Witness*, as we did, and from the odium of which the latter *Witness* tried to wriggle by equivocations and unfounded assertions hardly creditable to its editor."

The *Presbyterian Witness* turns upon the *Citizen* as follows:—

"We touched Mr. McDonald very softly on a previous occasion; we actually handled him 'with gloves'; but we have to warn him that he cannot with impunity charge us with falsehood in a case where the only departure from truth has been on his own side. We 'tricky' forsooth!—we trying 'to wriggle!' An old wriggler and a trickster could alone make such charges."

The Editor further tells Mr. McDonald, the late Queen's Printer, that he had "been for years the servant of Mr. Archibald and Mr. McCully," but now when these gentlemen have it no longer in their power to serve him as effectually as they once did—when they are serving their country to the best of their abilities—he calls them the betrayers of their party and their country."

The *Citizen* retorts on the editor of the *Witness*:—

"Mr. Murray had better say as little as possible about 'servants' for his own reputation. Suppose that we were to ask if the *Witness* proprietor prints the government's *Agricultural Journal* as a confederation servant, or simply as one of the religious press?"

"The strong language used in the *Witness*, to-day, forces us to say that when Mr. Murray calls our statements 'silly slander,' we must for our own sake tell him he speaks in the face of facts that condemn him. It is he who stands—not we."

We make these quotations for the general information of those who do not see the productions of these rival Presbyterian brethren. As politicians they are pretty well matched.

The friends of Confederation—finding that the ANTI-UNION LEAGUE, formed sometime since for disseminating views through the country opposed to the Union of British America—have combined and formed a UNION LEAGUE for giving information and re-publishing the opinions of prominent men in favor of Union. A copy of No. 1 of their publication is given with our present issue. We hail everything in the shape of material for examination of this great subject. We have not felt disposed to appropriate any large amount of space to these matters in our columns, and are therefore glad to have an opportunity of sending our readers this sheet.

A Letter has appeared in some of the public prints from the Hon. Judge Johnston, addressed to the Secretary of the Union League in reply to an application for his consent to a re-publication of an able speech of that honorable gentleman, made some years since on the Union of the Colonies. He reaffirms his sentiments on the subject. The letter is a lucid, calm, and convincing one. It is likely it will be re-published in the "British American Union," and will in that form reach our readers, if they have not already had an opportunity of reading it. In the mean time, in case they have not, we extract the three closing paragraphs as follows:—

"It being my purpose to do little more than make such explanations as the republication of my speeches requires to prevent my being misunderstood, the details of the plan are not within the purpose of this letter. I may, however, say that as far as I can judge the scheme propounded manifests an earnest desire, with no small measure of success, to secure solidity and endurance to the constitution and harmony in its action, and to do impartial justice among the constituent members, and I sensibly feel that the delegates have well earned the praise for moderation, forethought and ability in the case of great complication, delicacy and difficulty which has been freely accorded to them by the British Government, and in leading journals in England. It would not be surprising that some of the details should be liable to criticism, or to improvement. It would be surprising where it otherwise—the most perfect plan would not command itself alike to all minds, and no plan can be perfect when diversified interests, prejudices, feelings, and judgments require to be accommodated and harmonized.

In a case of such momentous and enduring importance, it is well for each one, before touching the detail, to settle firmly in his mind, the great question—INSOLATION or CONFEDERATION. If Confederation be thought beneficial,

then the details will be considered in relation to the importance of the object to be attained, and the difficulties of adjusting conflicting views. Matters temporary, or comparatively inferior, or that may be subsequently adjusted, or that must be sacrificed for the sake of attaining the object, will not be allowed to disturb the judgment; and, finally, it is a great security that the whole will undergo the scrutiny and revision of sagacious and far-seeing statesmen in England having no interest but the public good, aided by the local knowledge of able colonial public men.

This is no small affair, the influence of which will die away with the excitement of its discussion—no thing of petty politics, reaching no further than personal interests—no matter of party strife. Our country and its destinies, our descendants and their future, are the subjects—and the consideration should be approached with earnestness, and the decision made under a sense of responsibility not to be exceeded in the most solemn religious duty.

The New Brunswick elections having thus far gone so decidedly against Confederation, will, we presume, have the effect of deterring any action on the subject in our own legislature.

We are just informed that there are not a sufficient number of copies of the "British American Union" printed, for us to send a copy to each of our subscribers; we must, therefore, disappoint some this week, and hope to have them for our next.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Seventh Annual Report of the PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

Also the Report of the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS for the year 1864.

The principal items of information from these documents are given in our summary of Parliamentary Intelligence.

THE REVISED STATUTES are now published. We tender our thanks for a copy received. The work is got up in first rate style. The Index, which in the former edition, was very defective, is here greatly enlarged and more complete. Hiram Blanchard and William Twining, Esquires, had the supervision of its publication, and have performed their task most creditably.

THE ABBRIDGED HANDBOOK OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM, by R. Ingham. London: Fewtrell Bros.

A copy of this work came to us by mail from England. It is an excellent compendium of the best arguments on the subject and will doubtless do much to disseminate correct views in Great Britain. It will secure a very extensive circulation.

We have been requested to receive orders for the CANADIAN FARMER, an excellent fortnightly publication of 16 pages, on matters relating to Farming and General Agriculture—having numerous Illustrations. We are informed that it has already a circulation of 20,000 copies.

We have seen a few copies of the *Canadian Farmer*, and certainly think it the best and cheapest publication of the kind we have yet known.

It is issued on the 1st and 15th of every month, and will be supplied for One Dollar a year.

10 copies to one address for	...\$9
20 "	...16
40 "	...30
100 "	...70

There is, however, postage of 1/2 cent a number—13 cents a year—charged in Canada on periodicals. There must, therefore, be an addition of that sum to the above rates sent with the order.

Orders also received for the TORONTO GLOBE, the largest and most widely circulated newspaper in British America.

Daily	\$6 per annum.
Weekly	2 per annum.

The postage on the *Globe* to be paid with the subscription, on the Daily, \$1.60 a year. On the Weekly 26 cents a year.

Address—*Christian Messenger* Office, 59 Granville St., Halifax, N. S.

PROTESTANT MISSIONS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.—The late interference of the French Governor of New Caledonia with English Protestant missionaries has been brought to the attention of the Emperor of France by representatives of the various English Missionary Societies. They have united in presenting an address, of which the following is one of the more important paragraphs:—

"We are glad to know that the measures of Mr. Guillain were adopted on his own responsibility, and that they require your Majesty's sanction to give them force and perpetuity, because we feel convinced, from your Majesty's well known attachment to the great principles of social justice and religious freedom, that those oppressive restrictions will be revoked, and the English missionaries will be allowed as heretofore to carry on their peaceful and beneficial labours, and to enjoy without restriction the ministrations and ordinances of Christianity."

To this Address the Emperor makes the following reply:—

"Tuileries, Jan. 24, 1865.—Gentlemen,—I have received the complaints which you have addressed to me relative to the recent proceedings of the Governor of New Caledonia, in the Loyalty Islands. I have caused a letter to be written to Commandant Guillain, condemning any measure which might impede the free exercise of your ministry in those distant countries. I am certain that, far from raising difficulties in the way of the representatives of the French authority, the Protestant missions, like the Catholic, will aid it in spreading amongst the aborigines of that archipelago the benefits of Christianity and civilisation.

"Receive, gentlemen, the assurance of my distinguished sentiments.

"NAPOLEON."

NEWS SUMMARY.

THE R. M. Steamship *Canada* arrived on Friday morning with European dates to the 20th.

The intelligence is not of a very startling character. Parliament had not entered on any matters of much interest. It was gratifying to find a saving of near three millions in the exchequer. A reduction of the malt tax is looked for.

The French Emperor's speech on the opening of the Chambers notices the peaceful state of the empire, and congratulates the country on the expected return of its soldiers from Cochin China, Mexico, and Rome, and says "we may with pride inscribe upon a new triumphant arch these words—To the glory of the French armies, for the victories achieved in Europe, in Asia, in Africa, in Spain, and in America."

Cardinal Wiseman died on the 16th ult., aged 68.

The Duke of Northumberland also died on the 18th, aged 72.

A Bill is to be introduced into the House of Commons to grant ex-Governors of Colonies retiring pensions.

Sir J. Gaspard LeMarchant, late Governor of Malta, is to be Commander-in-Chief at Madras.

Notices, &c.

The French Mission.

Rev. Jos. H. Saunders has just called in as we are going to press. He has advanced thus far on his tour in behalf of the French Mission. Has met with good success, and purposes proceeding by the shore route on to Yarmouth. Hopes to reach New Germany by Lord's Day, 12th inst. Bridgewater, on Monday; Port Medway, on Tuesday; Liverpool, on Wednesday; Milton, on Thursday; and Locke's Island, on Lord's Day, the 19th inst.

Scania Athenæum.

The next lecture of the course before the above society, will be delivered on the evening of Friday, March 10th, in the Vestry of the Baptist Meeting House, Wolyville.

Lecturer:—AVARD LONGLEY, M. P. F.

SUBJECT:—"Heroism and Patriotism form the firmest pillars of the State."

JNO. MACDONALD, Cor. Sec., Wolfville, March 6th, 1865.

Scania College.

A Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held in the Library on Friday the 17th inst., at 2 o'clock, P. M.

S. W. DEBLOIS, Secretary, March 6th, 1865.

Donation Vests.

Mr. Editor,—I wish to acknowledge through the *Christian Messenger* the receipt of \$131, from my church and congregation as a donation.

JAMES PARKER, Cornwallis, March 3rd, 1865.

Colchester County S. School Convention.

The Convention will hold its next Quarterly Meeting at Debert River, on Friday, March 31st, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

It is earnestly requested that Superintendents, Teachers, and other friends of Sabbath Schools, will endeavour to be present.

T. B. LAYTON, Secretary, February 28th, 1865.

Letters Received.

J. F. Masters, Esq., 24th St., Ward Eaton, Esq., 25th St., J. Wheelock, 24th St., W. Churchill, Esq., 23rd St., 1 sub. Rev. E. Hickson, 16th St., J. H. Cohoon, 23rd St., \$8.25. M. Kinsman, 24th St., and 3rd St., J. W. Barsa, Esq., 24th St., \$14.00 forwarded. C. H. Harrington, Esq., 23rd St., S. McGuire, 21st St., J. Baker, 27th St., T. A. Bishop, 26th St., Rev. Dr. Tupper, 27th St., \$9.—Credited W. W. to May 1, 1864. E. A. Bentley, 26th St., Rev. J. Chase, A. Marshall, Esq., 27th St., per W. H. Ray, Esq., \$10.—A. J. Hill, 6th St., G. S. Chipman, 3rd St., Dr. W. L. Bent, 1st St., \$1.50. Rev. Jas. Parker, 27th St., 1 sub. B. L. Telfer, 27th St., \$4.

WHITE AND GREY COTTONS SHEETINGS TABLE LINEN, TOWELLINGS, LADIES' AND GENT'S LAWN HDEFS., B. N. BECKWITH & CO. Feb. 15th