

of March, Charles Albert betrayed his associates, and fled at night from the capital of Piedmont to Modena, where he was not received, and was obliged in consequence to betake himself to Florence, covered with the maledictions of the men whom he had led to ruin and deceived. On the anniversary of the same day, on the 21st of March, 1849, his arms were signally overthrown in his own territory by Marshal Radetzky. It is given to few men to meet with infamy so immortal upon the same day; the first from perfidy to the cause of liberty, the second out of perfidy to the cause of order.

The Politician.

The Colonial Press.

From the Frederick Head Quarters.

UNION OF THE COLONIES.

For years past we have from time to time endeavored to direct public attention to the importance and ultimate necessity of a Union of the British North American Provinces, but hitherto the minds of our colonial people have been too much occupied with local party feelings and sectional interests, to give much attention to a subject which was generally supposed too remote seriously to affect the interests of the present generation. Recent events have, however, roused a portion of the population to the serious contemplation of our present position and future prospects, and we should fail in our duty as a faithful public Journalist were we to attempt to suppress the fact that annexation to the United States of America begins to be talked of among a class of colonists likely to exercise a powerful influence on the opinions of their fellow subjects, and unless promptly met by remedial measures of a comprehensive and salutary description, must, at no distant day, lead to results which the colonies and the mother country should alike deplore. It is foolish to talk of a Union of the Colonies being another step towards Independence, and worse than idle to advocate a policy based on the supposition that the British possessions in North America can be kept in their present position for any prolonged period. The commercial fist of Cobden & Co., has gone forth, which renders this equally impossible and impolitic; and if our rulers are wise, they will, without loss of time, place it in the power of these colonies to do the only thing which can now save them to the Empire, that of uniting themselves together in a Federal Union under the protection of the parent state. It may be argued that such a union would place these colonies in a better position to attempt a successful revolt. Granted. But while we admit that you can never consolidate the power and raise the influence of colonies without, at the same time, rendering them more formidable to the parent state in case of disagreement, it must also be admitted that it is within the power of a judicious and enlightened government to render that power equally formidable to a foreign country. The question is not now whether Great Britain, by uniting these colonies, will hasten the period when they will become an independent nation, but whether a union of the colonies will effectually destroy all chance of their adding to the strength and augmenting the resources of her great commercial rival. This is a consideration which one would think ought to have some weight even with the anti-colonial Free Traders, for they may rest assured that were these colonies permitted to become part of the United States, the first hostile gun heard on the Atlantic would be the signal for excluding them and their calico from fully one fourth of the globe. It is not, however, the consequences to them which we deprecate. 'As they have sown so must they reap.' They have broken down the ancient land-marks which balanced the different interests of the parent state, and have driven the trading interest in these colonies to look for a closer connexion with the States of America, and it will be fortunate indeed if that 'closer connexion' be purely confined to commercial relations. It is not our purpose to enter into an argument of the advantages or disadvantages of annexation to our neighbors, but one thing is quite certain, they would not be commensurate with the sacrifices which must be made to attain the object which these people have in view. We may, however, mention one argument by which annexationists try to induce the yeomanry of this country to fall in with their views, and that is, that it would at once raise the value of real estate to an enormous amount. That such an event would bring in a host of speculators to purchase property is very probable, and that they might pay part of the purchase money down is not impossible. If it is to be made more productive, and by that means increased in value, this can surely be as well done by our farmers under the British Flag as under the Stars and Stripes. But one example is worth a thousand theories. When Texas declared its independence, and made good its claims to be admitted into the family of independent nations, real estate in the infant republic rose in value over one hundred per cent. It maintained this value, or nearly so, just as long as Texas remained an independent country; but the instant she became annexed to the United States of America, real estate sank in value to the level it had occupied while Texas remained a portion of Mexico. Land in the State of Maine, every one knows, can be had for farming at as easy, if not easier, rates than in this Province. We have examples of this daily before our eyes, and on the borders of our own Province. Is it then by the magic of annexation that our soil is to be made more productive and our climate ameliorated, so that we can successfully compete in the common

market with the granaries of the West? If our soil be so superior that these results are really attainable, then the earth must be destined to yield her increase to another race, and the present possessors of the land must make up their minds to give up their native soil to a more skilful people, and become hewers of wood and drawers of water for those who will come in to inherit the land.—This is not an overdrawn picture. It will assuredly follow annexation as effect follows cause, and although a good many 'bonds' might be forfeited by the purchaser, the soil would, in a few years, be as completely alienated from the bulk of its present possessors, as the institutions of their forefathers would be overthrown never again to be established in North America. The advantages to commercial men are also somewhat paradoxical, notwithstanding the noise which is made about them. Commercial reciprocity would, however, secure all these real or fancied benefits, and if Brother Jonathan was really anxious to secure the trade of these colonies, and had not an eye to the possession of our harbors and our fisheries, our mines and our minerals, he would reciprocate at once; but his views extend farther than the mutual benefit system, and if our authorities, both here and at home, do not take such immediate steps as will check the progress of dissatisfaction, which the former has vainly endeavored to counteract, and the latter done a great deal to aggravate, we fear these Provinces will be forced into a position from which, neither the good faith of colonial statesmen nor the power of Imperial authority will be able to extricate them. Whether the commercial doctrines of annexationists be true or false, matters but little to those who desire a union of the colonies. It is sufficient for them to know that such doctrines are abroad, and whatever is to be the future fate of British North America, it is all important that they should act together. This they cannot do while divided and disjointed as they now are; and if they are to be saved from falling an easy prey to interested political adventurers they can only be saved by placing them on the high road to national dignity and ultimate political independence. If this be done they may continue for an indefinite period close allies and powerful auxiliaries of Great Britain, a self-sustaining people, continuing to her all the advantages to be derived from their position and resources; but if a contrary policy be pursued the effect will, we fear, be both dishonorable and disastrous.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI:

CHATHAM, TUESDAY, JULY 10, 1849.

The Subscriber having been compelled to consume a large amount of time, and incur considerable expense, in his too often fruitless endeavours to collect his far-spread Outstanding Debts, hereby notifies all persons to whom he is not indebted, and with whom he has not a running account, that orders for advertising in the Gleaner, and for Printing in future, must be accompanied with the CASH otherwise they will not meet with attention.

JAMES A. PIERCE.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

A Correspondent at Newcastle has furnished us with the annexed piece of local news. The inhabitants of Chatham were not idle on the evening of that day. Yankee Doodle was played on various instruments through the streets, several cannon were discharged, and other significant signs of discontent made manifest.

On the morning of the anniversary of the American Independence day, viz. 4th July, the Stars and Stripes of the Union were suspended from the Bell House of the Shire Town, on a high pole attached for the purpose to the roof of the building. This caused a great deal of sensation among the Magistrates and those in authority, and the consequence was that the flag was very summarily lowered from its position. By whom this act was perpetrated, did not appear, as no resistance was offered to its removal, and had there been I am led to believe that such resistance would have been unavailing.

The above fact is very ominous of the signs of the times; but we cannot justify such a procedure. Living under the Crown of England, and from our earliest youth attached to her institutions, we have on all occasions, been warm advocates of our present connection with the mother country; and should a separation be forced on these Colonies by the ruinous policy of the present Ministry, no public Journalist would regret the change more than ourselves. But what is to be done? the inhabitants of the Province are almost bordering on destitution; our trade is crippled; the foreigner is placed on an equal and as advantageous footing in the British market as the Colonist; and to crown the matter, and to utterly ruin our prospects, a death blow has been aimed

at our Ship Building trade, by the abrogation of the Navigation Laws, which will enable the Foreigner to undersell us in the home market.

Already the West India Colonies have fallen, victimized by the free trade nostrums of the Whig Ministry. This has, to a very great extent, put a stop to the fishing and lumber trade which the people of Novascotia and this Province used to carry on profitably with them.

Thus has our trade with Britain and the West Indies been cut off; and in the United States, and other foreign ports, when we endeavour to effect a trade, we are met by high duties levied to protect their own people: so whichever way we turn, the avenues of trade are closed to us.

It is true, that a large portion of our inhabitants have turned their attention to Agriculture, and may, should the crops not again fail, be enabled to subsist. This, with a successful prosecution of the Fisheries, may retain a remnant of our fast receding population; but they will be inadequate to satisfy the industry of the people for any length of time.

Not only do the Ministry at home by their commercial policy, cripple our trade, but our Loyalty is the theme of recrimination and bitter invective. To be loyal—according to the old school signification of the term—is to subject yourself to the taunts and reproaches of the advisers of Her Majesty, the Whig Members of Parliament, and their ill-informed party organs of the Press throughout the Kingdom. Thus link by link have been rudely severed the bonds of interest and affection which have heretofore bound the North American Colonies to the British Crown.

We again say, that should a separation of these Colonies from the parent State take place, it will be forced upon us by the Commercial policy of the British nation. It is all very fine to talk about loyalty, when trade is prosperous, and our larders full of the necessaries of life; but it tends very much to check that feeling when we discover that it is sneered at by a Colonial Secretary in Parliament; our cupboards empty, and all sources of trade cut off by the policy pursued in Britain. Our duty as children is obedience to our parent, but our affections will naturally be weakened, and ultimately be alienated, when the conduct of that parent is hurrying on the child to destruction and ruin.

SHEDIAC.—By the last mail we obtained the annexed information from our Correspondent in this place.

During the past ten days we have been favoured with frequent heavy rains, which have tended not only to allay the fires which were spreading around, but also to revive and resuscitate vegetation. The early part of the season was remarkably dry; the growth of the different crops was much retarded, and their general appearance was such as seemed in a great measure to damp the prospects and expectations of the husbandman. The late change, however, has restored and animated drooping nature; crops of every description bear a very promising aspect, and the hopes of our Agriculturists are cheered and brightened up with the anticipation of an abundant harvest. The hay crop is not so forward as in past years, but a few more heavy showers would give that also quite another appearance.

ST. JOHN.—We learn from the city papers that upwards of fifty gentlemen and a number of ladies proceeded to Boston in the Fairy Queen on Saturday week in order to participate in the festivities of the 4th July in that city; and on Monday the Admiral followed, with a company mustering over a hundred on a similar excursion.

Mr Whitney, of Saint John is about opening up a steam communication between Windsor and Boston—on which route he intends plying his new steamer the Fairy Queen.

NOVASCOTIA.—The Halifax Colonist furnishes the following gratifying paragraph respecting the growing crop:—

THE COUNTRY.—We are glad to be able

to record that the country has lately been visited with some genial and refreshing showers, which will, in all probability be the means of saving the crops; although there will not be an average crop of grass, yet the oats, potatoes and vegetables look promising. We understand that most of the potatoes in Cornwallis and Horton are already in blossom.—Hay is now bringing in Halifax £5 a ton—a large price than it has commanded for a long time.

CANADA.—It appears by our exchange papers that Mr Hincks has succeeded in negotiating in London, Provincial debentures to the amount of £30,000, at par.

The Quebec Chronicle reports that the steamer Commerce was about to leave Montreal for Halifax, and asks the question,—'When shall we have a steamer plying between Halifax and Quebec.'

The Montreal Herald has the following interesting remarks on the important trade that is springing up between Canada and the 'far West.'

We mentioned in our last the arrival of some schooner, loaded with Western produce, and we have since collected some information relative to their voyages which may be of interest to our mercantile readers at a distance. The Western is loaded with 4100 bushels of Indian Corn, 222 barrels of lard, and 35 of Pork. The Moses and Alias have brought 5625 bushels of Indian Corn, and four bales of Tennessee cotton. Both vessels are from Toledo, and are to be followed by the Mirinda, which vessel will probably reach to-morrow, with 10,000 bushels of Indian corn. The Western and Moses and Alias, have made the voyage from Toledo in ten and a half and eleven days. The deepest of them draws eight feet of water, and neither have touched anywhere throughout the navigation. Both vessels are chartered to return to Toledo with cargoes of salt which will be put on board them alongside, from a vessel now in port from St. Ubes, at freight of 8 cents per 80lbs, equal to something less than two dollars and a half per ton.

The Sophia Car, a Canadian schooner also arrived yesterday, from a similar voyage with Indian Corn Meal and Flour in bond, and proceeds immediately for Quebec, where the American vessels cannot go at present, owing to the operation of the navigation laws. She is also chartered for a return voyage with pig iron, which she is to deliver at Chicago at \$4.50 cents per ton. It may be worthy of notice that this freight, for the voyage to Chicago, is agreed for at twenty five per cent. per ton lower than the rate paid recently for a cargo of railway iron shipped at Quebec for Cleveland, although the latter port is some hundreds of miles nearer than the former.

The four bales of cotton which have come down in the Moses and Alias, have been sent as an experiment of the advantages of this route when compared with that by New York. They are intended for the Sherbrooke Factory.

We believe there can be no doubt, that the rates of upward freight here given, are so low as to place the Saint Lawrence route out of all danger of competition. We have conversed with the captains of the American schooners, and they agree in their praise of the accommodation of the port and the facilities of the voyage. Both of them assured us that nothing could prevent a very extensive trade on the St Lawrence, with the American Lake Ports.

TEMPERANCE.—The Quebec Gazette of the 20th ult., contains the following paragraph relative to the spread of temperance principles in that place:—

A series of meetings on this subject commenced on Tuesday evening last in the new Roman Catholic Chapel, St. John Suburbs. The Rev. Mr Mailloux, Vicar General, presided, and last night we learn between 500 and 600 persons took the pledge.

HUNGARY.—A writer in the Liverpool Mail, under the singular title of 'Tabak-raucher,' concludes a long article on the state of affairs in Hungary, as follows:—

Hungary, farewell! A day will come when you will hold a place among the nations of Europe. The regeneration of the country, however must be the work of the hands of her own people, magnate as well as peasant. The present generation must not be content with apeing the manners of the English;—they profess Anglo-mania, but they must do something more than copy the cut of a coat, or pride themselves in having an English groom. The soil is there, the bowels of the earth contain the source of real wealth—her rivers form an outlet for her produce—her peasantry require more industry, and also raising in the scale of civilization—her magnates have the 'stuff' in them, if they can but once be induced to abate some of their privileges—and the country must be freed from the power of Austria ere any great change can be looked for.

Most willingly do I bear my humble testimony to the great kindness and hospitality I received during my rambles, from men of all classes and shades of opinion; and if I do not mention names, it is not from any feeling of disrespect or want of gratitude. I went there with a desire to know something about the country—not with the idea of publishing a