

of their real conditions, to escape conviction of sin and invent modes of self-praise. The religion of all of us is too much a huge "If." My poor brother on a stipend of a dollar a day, says: *If I were rich, I would pay your church debt in less than twenty-four hours.* Perhaps you would, my dearly beloved Out-at-the-elbows; but you will allow me to say that I think there are nine hundred and ninety-nine chances out of a thousand that you would do no such thing at all. I give you the thousandth chance, to get all the comfort out of it you can. No, no, sir. Duty is a homely fact, and not a Utopian vision. You may settle it as more than probable that if you are not faithful where Providence placed you, you will not be faithful anywhere. Every day of real life brings its tests of fidelity, and he that abideth these, and he alone, shall be accounted at last a good steward of the Lord. And so my confession and my sermon end.—*Rev. J. L. Corning.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 14, 1864.

CONFEDERATION PUBLIC MEETING.

According to appointment, a meeting was held in Temperance Hall, on Friday evening last, for the purpose of hearing from the Delegates to the Quebec Conference an exposition of the plan proposed for uniting the different Provinces into one great Confederation. There was perhaps never so large a gathering of the influential and wealthy business men as on that occasion. On the platform were several of the Aldermen and dignitaries of the State and Church (Episcopal and Roman Catholic).

His Worship the Mayor took the chair, and stated the object of the meeting. A. M. Uniacke, Esq., enquired if it was the intention to call on any who were opposed to the scheme to express any opinion on the subject. The Provincial Secretary replied that the Delegates wished to have the fullest opportunity given to express their views, and the Delegates would be happy to hear and answer any enquiries relating to the question.

It was agreed, at Mr. Uniacke's request, that an adjourned meeting should be held on Monday evening, the 19th inst., for the purpose of hearing objections, and for the further development of the scheme.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary stated that the Delegates had agreed each to take up different features of the subject, so as to avoid repetition.

The Hon. Attorney General was to have spoken on the necessity for a Union, but severe indisposition had prevented him from being present, and in his absence the Hon. Mr. McCully had consented to be the first speaker.

Hon. Mr. McCully arose and spoke in reference to the kind of Union most desirable, whether Legislative or Federal. He ably described the nature of these, and shewed that a Legislative Union—the one at first contemplated with the Lower Provinces—was altogether impracticable, but that a Federal Union would not deprive each province of all the advantages of local legislation, and would yet enable the united Legislature to manage all the matters of a really national character. The objections to the United States Federation had been carefully weighed and guarded against. The fact of British American securities having diminished so much in value, not long since, but, when the news of what the Quebec Conference had projected reached London, they advanced so rapidly, was a plain indication of the view taken of the matter by the shrewdest minds in the mother country.

Adams Archibald, Esq., in a most lucid and practical manner, exhibited the financial features of the question, shewing that increased expenditure was inevitable. The British Government had intimated plainly that we must not rely on protection without bearing some share of the burden. The fact that in Great Britain, on an average, each man contributes about six dollars per annum for purposes of defence, whilst it costs us but six cents, was considered too great a disproportion. With all the reserve funds for building our railways to Pictou and even to Annapolis, there would not be more than an addition of 40 cents a head to meet the expenses of the protection afforded by the Union. Whilst we now have to pay on an average about \$2.60, it was contemplated that \$3 would be ample for all these purposes, leaving us to reap all the advantages of increase of traffic on the

railways and of enlarged receipts from the coal and gold mines.

The following figures were given with such explanations as shewed the reasonableness of the arrangements, with the different provinces, of the sums named.

CHARGES ON UNITED PROVINCES.

Total debt—	
Canada.....	\$62,500,000
Nova Scotia.....	8,000,000
New Brunswick.....	7,000,000
Prince Ed. Island and Newfoundland, counted at \$25 a head.....	5,250,000
Total.....	\$82,750,000
at 5 per cent.....	\$4,137,500 00
New debt for Intercolonial Railway £3,500,000 stg. at 5 per cent, or \$17,500,000.....	700,000 00
Total.....	\$4,837,500 00
Charges for management at 1 per cent.....	4,837 00
Total interest.....	\$4,842,337 00
Contribution to local governments 2,790,000 00	
Charges for—	
Administration of Justice.....	\$800,000
Civil Government.....	\$400,000
Legislative Charges.....	630,000
Militia and Defence.....	1,000,000
Public Works and Buildings.....	200,000
Steam Service.....	300,000
Collection of Revenue.....	700,000
Miscellaneous.....	197,663
	\$4,367,663 00
	\$12,000,000 00

He shewed the great facilities we have for becoming a great manufacturing country—to supply the several provinces with such articles as we could produce more readily than they. Immigration, too, might be confidently expected, which would give an enlarged consumption, and diminish the burdens of the country.

Hon. Dr. Tupper spoke for nearly two hours, in the most eloquent and forcible manner, on some of the objections which have been raised to a Union of the Provinces, and shewed that if our connection with Great Britain were valued and rendered lasting, we must assume a different position to that we at present occupy. His remarks were listened to with the profoundest attention, and received with unmistakable demonstrations of applause, as were also those of both the preceding speakers.

The meeting was not closed till about 11 past 11, and then adjourned till Monday, the 19th. We shall have to wait till then to hear the other side of the question. It will doubtless be as generally and respectably attended as this one was. The entire harmony of the leaders of Government and Opposition will remove every doubt as to the position Nova Scotia is to occupy in this future nationality. We are fairly committed.

An article in the *Morning Chronicle* of Tuesday last, takes the *Colonist* to task, for revealing what occurred at the Quebec Conference, respecting the railway to Annapolis, and, as an offset, lets a little further light fall on us outsiders, as to what was said and done there.

The *Colonist* had said—

"The members of the Government of this Province, in their capacity as delegates, frankly avowed to the Conference that they could not be a party to any arrangement which would interfere with the public pledges they have given to extend the Railway to Pictou and Annapolis; and those who examined the resolutions of the Conference, would find that the means of accomplishing both those works had been provided for."

The *Chronicle* does not controvert the statement, but says,

"He should have added also, what the members of the opposition as frankly avowed, namely, that there were no pledges given, binding upon the Province, to extend the Railway to Annapolis or anywhere else except to Pictou. And to satisfy the Conference the Nova Scotia Journals were produced and read, the resolution referring to this subject being as follows:—
'And that the Government be authorized to procure the construction of the Line west of Windsor in the same manner, to the same extent of four per cent upon a capital of six thousand pounds per mile.'"

Further the *Chronicle* states—

"We are now requested to add, on behalf of those who feel themselves compromised, by this Pictou speech unexplained, that the Provincial Secretary, if he wished to act fairly, should have further said that such a stand was taken against the resolution securing the \$8,000,000 as first submitted to the Conference, that it had to be withdrawn and a new one prepared, that which now stands No. 62 of the series—leaving, as it does, any balance after the amount required for the Pictou Branch unpledged for any specific purpose, stand a credit to Nova Scotia, drawing interest at 5 per cent."

Whether the Annapolis Railway is really to be built we know not, any further than what has appeared in the public prints, and by the way of rumors, but this we do know, that the western counties are entitled to facilities of travel, no less than the eastern,

and with the easy grading required over a large portion of the distance, it might be comparatively easily done. We think it would be exceedingly unwise, after what is stated above, that the question between the rival candidates for the representation of Annapolis should be, railroad, or, no railroad, as we deem it a matter of right to the whole western section, that the railroad should be built, and that as early as possible. However, we have no desire to meddle with the questions between the two parties; but shall be glad to have more rapid communication between the capital and that beautiful and valuable part of Nova Scotia.

Our contemporary the *Canadian Baptist* does not appear to set much value on connection with the lower provinces. In a brief article on "Confederation and Trade," he asks "What are the actual advantages to be derived from the Confederation of the Provinces?" In the summer months he says:—

"The Canadian imports and exports will not patronise the railroad, as freight by water is cheaper. In winter, the shorter route to the ocean by railroad to Portland will certainly be preferred to the longer one to Halifax, for the same reason, to wit: cheapness. Again, travellers to Europe find the distance by rail to Portland, Boston, or New York sufficiently irksome to render it very problematical whether any one would elect to go all the way to Halifax by rail before taking the steamer."

The circumstance of having to pass through foreign territory, all the winter months is here ignored. In case of difficulty with the United States, Canada would be at their mercy for its European correspondence and always liable to interruption and detention; whereas under the Union proposed, with the Intercolonial Railroad, there would be direct and constant communication between the mother country and the remote parts of Canada, East and West.

Sons of Temperance in Australia.

The following communication is from *The Empire*, Sydney paper, and shews that Nova Scotia is exerting some influence for good in that part of the Southern hemisphere:—

ORGANISATION OF "ROSE OF AUSTRALIA No. 2" DIVISION OF THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—Sir,—Believing you to be interested in all moral reforms, and knowing your favourable disposition to the cause of temperance generally, I hope you will find a place for this communication. Dr. Hobbs having received a commission from the Grand Division in North America to institute subordinate divisions of the Sons of Temperance in New South Wales, a requisition, signed by thirty persons, requesting him to open a second benefit division in the city of Sydney, met at York street, No. 90, and instituted the above-named division in due form; after which the members sat down to a repast, prepared by Mr. Charles Carr for the occasion.

There is also a division formed at the Hall of Temperance, called The Day Spring Division No. 1, also working under a charter from the Grand Division of Nova Scotia; also one at Kingston, called the Good Samaritan; and one at Tempe, to be initiated on the 20th, called the Rising Sun, all benefit divisions.

NEWS SUMMARY.

On this side the water there is little or nothing new. There has been some pretty sharp fighting in East Tennessee, in which the Confederates appear to have suffered considerably—Accounts of the Army under Gen. Sherman now advancing through Georgia, towards the sea coast are very vague. It seems probable that his aim is Savannah for the purpose of co-operating with the large expedition lately fitted out from Norfolk in Virginia. Except the devastation of the country through which has passed, no adequate object would seem to be obtained, if he has left the tract of country through which he has passed unoccupied. The armies around Richmond and Petersburg are still wholly inactive though it appears to be thought that some more decided operations will, shortly, commence for the capture of Richmond.

The Steamer *Canada* arrived on Sunday afternoon. During the whole voyage she had encountered heavy weather. Her dates were to the 28th ult.

The Screw popeller Glasgow also arrived here on Sunday with news to the 23rd—having 400 passengers—emigrants for New York.

The question of confederation is occupying an important place in the public attention. The plan of Confederation is published in full in the *London Times*. The scheme is spoken of with strong approval as promising great advantages to the future of British America.

The news of the re-election of Mr. Lincoln as President of the United States had reached England, and caused the greatest excitement in the Cotton Market, the price of the article having advanced 2d per lb.

Lord Lyons has resigned his position as British Minister to the United States.

General Tom Thumb, Mrs. Thumb, and Miss Minnie Warren, visited the Princess of Wales by appointment at Marlboro' House. The Prince of Wales and the Commander-in-Chief entered into familiar conversation with the General, while the Princess was almost exclusively occupied with Mrs. Stratton and her baby. The interview lasted about a quarter of an hour, when their Royal Highnesses retired, highly delighted with the visit, while the General and family were no less delighted with the honour paid them.

Notices, &c.

Acadia College.

I am reminded as the year draws to its close, that Professors salaries and other claims must shortly be met. I would therefore earnestly solicit the friends who are indebted to the College to make an effort to remit their balances by the end of this month, without waiting for a personal application by me.

The Treasury is empty and unless speedily replenished I shall be pained and mortified to find myself unable to meet promptly just claims when presented.

J. W. BARSS,
Treasurer Acadia College.

Wolfville, Dec. 12th, 1864.

The Board of Governors have great pleasure in announcing that Rev. J. E. Balcom, of Londonderry, has undertaken an Agency in behalf of the above Institution, in the Eastern part of this Province.

The pastors and churches are earnestly invited to co-operate with him, and give him such assistance in the prosecution of his work as he may from time to time require.

STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Secretary.
Wolfville, Nov. 22nd, 1864.

A Meeting of the Governors will be held in the Library on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at two o'clock, P. M.
S. W. DEBLOIS, Secretary.
Nov. 23, 1864.

Annapolis Co. Ministerial Conference.

The next Meeting of the Annapolis County Conference of Baptist Ministers will be held D. V., at Clements Vale, on Tuesday the 3rd day of January, 1865, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Preaching on the previous evening.

As the Ordination of Bro. G. D. Cox, is expected to take place there on the following day, (Jan. 4.) A full attendance seems especially desirable.
ISA. WALLACE, Secretary.
Lower Granville, 6th Dec., 1864.

Acadia Athenaeum.

The Hon. DR. TUPPER will deliver a lecture before the above society, in the Gymnasium, Wolfville, on the evening of Friday, the 16th inst.

SUBJECT:—The Proposed Federal Union of the Provinces.
THOMAS S. McLEAN, Cor. Sec.
Wolfville, Dec. 10th, 24th.

Colchester County S. School Convention.

There will be a quarterly session of the Colchester Baptist Sabbath School Convention, at the Baptist Meeting-house, Truro, on Friday, December 30th, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

T. B. LAYTON, Secretary.
Londonderry, Dec. 6th.

Notice.

The new Baptist Meeting House, in Centre Rawdon, will be opened for religious worship on Lord's-day, the 25th inst. (Christmas day). The exercises will commence at 10 A. M. Ministering brethren and all other friends who can conveniently attend, are respectfully requested to meet with us on that occasion.

JAMES STEVENS.

Rawdon, Dec. 3.

Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society.

A Meeting of the Members of this Society will be held in the Library of Acadia College on Tuesday, Dec. 20th, at three o'clock, P. M.—on important business. A Meeting of the Executive Committee will take place immediately afterwards.

A. S. HUNT, Secretary.
Nov. 23, 1864.

LETTERS RECEIVED will be acknowledged next week.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Educational Notice. (No. 3.)

MANY irregularities having occurred in the proceedings of the Annual School meetings, in consequence of imperfect knowledge and misunderstandings concerning the requirements of the law, and many Sections in several Counties having failed to provide for the support of Schools,

Notice is hereby given, that—

1. Measures will be adopted by the Government, upon the meeting of the Legislature, for the purpose of legalizing the proceedings of the Annual Meetings at which technical irregularities have occurred.
2. Where it is deemed necessary, in order to complete the arrangements entered into at the Annual Meetings, or to make provision for supporting schools in sections, in which no provision has yet been made, meetings may be called by the Inspectors, till the 1st of January, 1865.

Measures will be adopted by the Government to render the proceedings of such meetings legal, as if held on the 25th of October last.

It must be borne in mind that Schools, unless organized under the Act, cannot participate in the Provincial grants, either of money, books, or maps.
By order of the Council of Public Instruction.
T. H. RAND, Secretary.

Halifax, Nov. 22, 1864.

Nov. 23rd. 4 wks. 23 Nov. 23rd 1864

Tri W. Col., Chron., Sun, Recorder, Citz., Rep., Exp., Journ., Wit., Ch. Rec., Free Press, Yar. Her., Trib., Liv. Trans., Pict. Chron., Stand., Ant. Cask., C. B. News.—4 wks. Editorial Page.