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FRIDAY MORNING, FEB. 10, 1865

A LETTER FROM "D."

Quebec, 7th February, 1865.

DEAR WHIG,—

The Confederation scheme was last night brought before the House by the Hon. J. A. Macdonald in a most brilliant speech, one worthy both of the subject and the statesman who delivered it. In the matter of Confederation he did not leave a point untouched nor an argument unstrengthened, and I may say John A. has made a speech that no one can but admire.

John Sandfield has gone home, where it is likely he will remain for some weeks, he leaves the business of the Opposition in the hands of Holton, who is making the best of his time, in making repeated Quixotic attacks on the Ministry.

It is disgusting to see a man occupying the position of Mr. Holton, libelling himself, by his small attacks on the Ministry. He fairly gloats over an opportunity to display his ebullitions of would be sarcasm. If he would only confine his railing to himself, but he has now actually infested poor little Dorion, his former colleague, with the same disease, so that these two worthies, present more the appearance of Jacks-in-a-box than Statesmen.

Yesterday the Governor went down to the House to sanction the Bill relating to Border Outrages, in order, I suppose, that it may take immediate effect. This is a bill, that Canada should have introduced when the war began, and not have to wait until the first horse has left the stable.

However, there will still be a great amount of good done by it; and the first thing that should be done now is to order Messrs. George Sanders and Co. out of the Province. For it is they who are concocting all the mischief, and they are performing the character of the monkey and the chestnuts, making Messrs. Young, Burley, &c., do all the raiding, while they are enjoying the asylum of Canadian centrality. It is without doubt very hard for the States to bear, when they are fighting to preserve their constitution and their country, to find themselves attacked by parties of soldiers coming from a friendly territory, doing immensity of damage, then returning and claiming the protection of that country. That, however, is remedied now, but not until we have lost the benefits of the Reciprocity Treaty, and are subjected to the embarrassment of a passport system. I do not think that any blame can be attached to the Tache-Macdonald Ministry, for they were introduced to the country with a Parliament so evenly balanced that its existence depended on the vote of one or two; and when they did find themselves in a position to work, they did so with a will that showed that they were on friendly relations with the United States. What did their predecessors do to allay the ill feeling towards Canada? Simply nothing.

But we may thank Heaven that we have at least one Statesman who is willing to do his duty, notwithstanding the sneers of men who, when they were in power, did nothing.

Yours, &c.,

"D."

THE SPEECH OF THE HON. MR. CARTIER ON CONFEDERATION.

House of Assembly, Feb. 7.

M. Cartie rsaid he felt unusual responsibility in rising to the question. Before approaching the subject he would refer to its history. He then proceeded to read from the programme of the Cartier–Macdonald government in 1858, to show that the subject was then alluded to. General elections had followed, and the people were not taken by surprise. At that time, Newfoundland was the only province which exhibited a willingness to consider the subject. After referring to the negotiations at that period, he went on to say he had, as every one knew, been opposed to representation by population. The moment that it was conceded it would have been a constant source of warfare, as one province would have been governing another. It might have caused one of the bitterest struggles which ever took place between two countries, in which that between the Northern and Southern States could not compare. He was not afraid, however, to adopt that principle when other parties came into the federation. He did not oppose the application of that principle because he was unwilling to do justice to Upper Canada, for he did not wish injustice to Upper Canada, but did not wish injustice done to Lower Canada. The questions to be submitted to the general Parliament under federation could not endanger the interests of either the French, English, Irish or Scotch. He did not intend to go into the details of the measure, but to show why the House should adopt the resolutions submitted by the government. The question was, in fact, forced upon us. The struggle going on in the States must necessarily influence our political existence. It did not matter what the result of it might be. Either we must obtain this British American federation or be absorbed in the American federation.—(Cries of "No, no.") It was useless to deny it. In case of attack on any one of the provinces it could not defend itself. The whole force of the British Empire could not be brought to bear here. If the country was invaded after the union, the strength of the whole federation would be brought to bear, and we might then look for the support of Great Britain. When speaking in the lower Provinces he stated plainly that as regards population, extent of territory, &c., Canada was the greatest territory; but we lacked one important element—the maritime element—which the Lower Provinces had, whilst they lacked a back country, which we had. He maintained that federation was necessary for our prosperity, commercial interests and defence, and to secure to us the continuance of our connection with England. He understood well the French social democrats and annexationists in Montreal opposing the scheme. At a meeting of the Institute Canadien in Montreal, the opinion had been expressed that the interests of the French Canadians would be better secured by at once joining the American federation.—He also understood the followers of John Dougall and L'Union Nationale opposing the scheme because they were annexationists, and if the scheme was carried out there would be no chance of annexation. He defended the conference setting with closed doors. If the proceedings had been made public day by day, modifications could not have been had. The difference of interests, religion and races, was the very reason why a federative system should be resorted to. That there should be differences in races here was complained of by some, but he must vindicate the par those of his race had taken. Canadians were called upon in early 1775 by Washington to leave their new masters who differed from them in religion and race, but Canadians resisted the offer and not only that, but fought against the American invading armies. Their conduct then showed that protestants need not now be afraid of being dealt with fairly. If Canada now formed part of the British Empire, it was owing to the efforts of the priests. He referred to several old proclamations and documents published at the time when the Americans tried to seduce the French Canadians to join them to vindicate the honor and loyalty of his ancestors. The spirit which induced the Americans to form a federation was to carry out democratic institutions, but ours had not that object. We had seen that purely democratic institutions cannot be conducive to property and good government. We were carrying out the purely monarchical element, while on the other side of the lake they were dependent on the will of the populace or the mob. The people there acknowledged that they had made a great mistake in giving so much power to the mob, which left the responsible part of the community little to do with the government. We desired to continue under the British system. Besides there ought to be free commercial intercourse between the provinces. We had common interests, and that was the true basis for the formation of a great nationality; as to difference of race and religion being against this, quite the contrary was the case. With regard to the British Empire Irish and Scotch had assisted in adding to its glory. So here, French Canadians could never be exterminated, but all must work together. If the local government in Lower Canada choose to enact laws detrimental to the minority, which he was sure it would never do, such a feeling of insecure would be created over the whole federation as would prevent it being carried out. The same would be the case in Upper Canada. The British community formerly had a difficulty in enacting commercial laws. M. Sapineau was quite right in his course, but he did not understand the wants of the commercial community. No fears of this kind might be entertained now as the questions of trade were to be left to the General Government. The local government could not enact laws pressing on the Protestants, because the same law would apply to all. When the details were being discussed, he would show it was impossible that any minority could be oppressed. He went on to allude to the opposition of the Montreal Witness and True Witness to the scheme, both on the ground that it would be the ruin of some of their respective religious if carried. Mr. Chauvier had also came out very suddenly to oppose it, and they all told the whole cause of this was that confounded M. Cartier. (Laughter.) As to the clergy being opposed to the scheme, such was not the case. They advocated it because it would only be doing justice to Protestants. The priests did not wish for strife; it was not worthy a minister of religion to drag down religious subjects into a discussion of this kind. The French priests did not do that, but they saw in the scheme a solution of the evils under which they had been labouring. From each of three quarters of the opposition in Montreal, the cry of the nationality and religion was raised. He (M. Cartier) opposed to the democratic system. With that element the government would enjoy more prestige and respectability. He alluded to the subject of election of President of the United States. Several candidates were proposed but only one elected. It was impossible he could have respect for his political opponent who had been doing everything to place him before the people in the worst possible light. Ministers here had to bear abuse, but this did not reach the head of the government. In conclusion, he hoped the members would well consider the scheme which it was his sincere hope would be adopted. The time was opportune and might never occur again. In all their proceedings the government had the approbation of the imperial government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Quebec, Feb. 8.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:—

Mr. Price—To amend the act relating to agricultural societies, board of agriculture and agricultural societies in Lower Canada.

Mr. Ferguson Blair—To amend the act making special provisions respecting both Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Christie moved that the following gentlemen form a committee of agriculture to act with the committee appointed by the Lower House, namely, Sir E. P. Tache, Messrs. Allan, Alexander, Arland, Blake, Olivier, Sanborn, Simpson, Duchesnay and the mover. Carried.

The House then resumed the adjourned debate on the address.

Mr. John Ross spoke in reply to Mr. Cartier. He thought that the sober sense of the House would condemn the spirit and style of his speech, reading newspaper reports of speeches in the other Province, to condemn the speaker for insincerity, and unfairly accusing the Premier of New Brunswick—a man worthy of high position—for a similar fault, and unfairly assailing our own public men, including the leaders of the party with which he had formerly acted. He proceeded to declare that the figures he had attempted to discredit were quite correct. If he had read the discussions by the great men of the American revolution on their constitution he would surely have learned from their example to approach so great a theme in a better and higher tone. He had described this as a mongrel constitution without precedent. He spoke of it as, therefore, without merits. Yet strange to say in spite of the wisdom of the member, the statesmen and leading journals of Great Britain saw its merits. Although Mr. Cartie professed himself favorable to federation, he would not give them the benefit of his wisdom in suggesting a better scheme. He did not cite any precedent from history of a better scheme of Confederation. He had argued that the country was taken by surprise, and did not comprehend the scheme. Was that true? It was certain that at the beginning of the century, when the colonies were smaller and more widely sundered, Mr. Uniacke of Nova Scotia, and Chief Justice Sewell had broached schemes for this purpose. One of them was referred to in Lord Durham's report, who himself argued in favour of a legislative union of the colonies, which had been found impracticable at present, and which he for one regretted. In the appendix to the same report was a letter from Mr. Strachan, new Lord Bishop of Toronto, speaking of the glory that awaited the man who should consolidate and perpetuate British influence on this continent by a union of the colonies. Several years ago the present Finance Minister brought the subject of union before Parliament in an able speech, and later, in 1858, when he took office, it was with the understanding that that should be part of the ministerial policy, and it was so stated in the Governor's speech at the close of the session. Afterwards, pursuing that course, three ministers submitted a memorandum, so often referred to, by the Colonial Secretary. The ten Imperial ministry (Lord Derby's) were disinclined to take it up, and so action was deferred. In the last session that memorandum was made the basis of deliberation by a committee of the other House, was reported in favour of federation, and subsequently there was a coalition of the ministry. The intention to act in that sense was made public at the close of last session. The conference assembled and in October last the members of Parliament were furnished with the resolutions, which were made public through the press. The details of the scheme have been since that time before the country. The country had not, therefore been taken by surprise. The press was almost unanimously in favor of it. Any meetings held in Upper Canada had gone in favor of the elections New Brunswick had abolished stampage as inconvenient and less productive, and substituting duties in its place. They were not prepared to give that up, and as land and timber belonged to the local government they left that to them—mines also with lands belonging to these governments—Nova Scotia was allowed to continue dues on shipments on coals. As for levying export duties on Canadian timber by the general government, he should be opposed to it. After allowing Canada to bring to a debt of sixty two and a half millions, about five millions remained as a charge against two Provinces. The seigniorial tenure indemnity would probably be a charge against Lower Canada, and with the township indemnity and municipal loan fund was larger than all against Upper Canada. This he thought personally was a means of divisions without great difficulty; but the government objected to enter on these details now. He had not now to deal with these details, seeing they must now consider the bargain with the other Provinces as a whole. There were other details to be submitted by the ministry and the House could not alter, or amend, that part of the scheme, as it saw fit to secure justice to both Provinces. It was embarrassment alone with regard to the finances of the Confederation, it might be anticipated perhaps more with reference to the local governments than to the general government. He would examine therefore what were the prospects with reference to local governments. They had certain sources of local revenue reserved—the receipts from the territorial domain, lands, mines, minerals, royalties &c. In the case of Canada very large sums would be receivable by the local governments from lands and timber, and he hoped mines also, from the arrears due to the municipal loan fund and the other funds of a local character. Some of these revenues, as that from the municipal loan fund would in the course of years run out, but other sources of local revenue, it might be expected, would in the meantime develope themselves. If not the local governments would require to resort to local taxation for the purpose of maintaining themselves. He thought this was one of the wisest provisions in the whole constitution, for it afforded the best check on lavish expenditure by the government. (Hear, hear). And he hoped the further education of the people in political economy would teach them to be more economical, and to bear more of their burdens by direct taxation. The local revenue of Upper Canada arising from law fees, Upper Canada building fund, local public works, crown lands, interest on investment, &c., on an average of the last four years, was was $7,39000. The local revenues of Lower Canada from similar sources, on an average of the last four years was $557,000 making for Upper and Lower Canada an aggregate of $1,300,000 receipts from local revenue—adding the subsidy of 80 cents in the dollar, which would come from the general government, there would be a total income of $2,260,000, leaving an excess over estimated local expenditure of $1,043,000, from which would have to be deducted the expenses of the local governments and the local legislatures, and he thought if the governments of Upper and Lower Canada could not keep the expenses of their legislation and civil government within that sum the representatives of the people would soon call them to account and make a change. (Hear, hear.) He adverted then to the propriety of the general government granting the proposed subsidy to the local governments, inasmuch as they handed over to the general government all their import duties, excise duties, &c., and to the necessity for such subsidy, inasmuch as local expenditures exceeded the local revenues, independently of the subsidy. He proceeded to deal with the last question—that of expense—whether the system of federation as proposed was likely to involve so great additional expense as to render it in that point of view advisable. He thought the House would agree with that expense was no criterion by which to judge of the value of Union of this kind. (Hear, hear.) For the purpose of argument, he was prepared to show that in that point of view federation would still be a success; but he protested at the outset against the question of expense being considered a matter of greater importance than the peace and happiness and prosperity of the people. The only mode in which confederation could prove more expensive than our present system was with reference to the cost of the government. Every other item was for objects necessary in themselves or the expenditure would not be incurred. He could understand that a weak and poor country would omit to carry out desirable undertakings because it had not the power or the means to do it from want of credit; as regarded for instance the question of defences, a small and poor colony unable to defend itself would not from the very nature of things incur any large outlay for that purpose, but threw itself on the forbearance of its powerful neighbor or on the protection which might be afforded by the mother country. But when these Provinces came together and clubbed their resources, they would then be enable to undertake the work of self-defence and to incur an outlay for that purpose. It was the same with respect to public works. Many of our public works were of utility not merely to the locality where they existed but to the whole system of colonies, for instance, the Welland, and St. Lawrence canals, and it was only in consequence of the union of Upper and Lower Canada that we had been enabled to carry out these great works. The same was the case with reference to our great railway works, completed or now in contemplation. Again, the enlargement of the St. Lawrence and Welland canals, the opening up of the Northwest, &c., were works which the colonies could not undertake separately, but he hoped they could be among the first things for which the Finance Ministry of the confederation, when established, would ask grants.—But, looking at the question in its most restricted sense, whether it would cost more dollars and cents to govern the country under the new system than under the old, he contended that the new system would not be more expensive. In the first place the governments of the several provinces would be of a less important character and less expensive than now. Then the local legislatures, having nothing to do with the general questions which now occupied so much time, would have their sittings much less protracted, and would be much less expensive. The general government and legislature not having local matters to deal with, he was satisfied would not cost more than the government and legislature of Canada now cost. Though they would have the charge of an additional million of people, they would be relieved of the care of the local affairs of three millions with which they were now charged—there was only left, therefore, the expense of the new local governments, and legislatures of Upper and Lower Canada as an offset against the reduction that would be effected in the cost of the government of the lower Provinces. If there was any excess it must be so small that it should not hesitate the House to refuse its assent to federation. Mr. Galt concluded by an eloquent appeal to the members not to let this opportunity slip of adopting a measure which would be a remedy for the evils undoing which we had laboured in Canada during the last ten years, and by which the internal prosperity, peace and happiness of all these colonies would be developed and maintained. (Loud Cheers.

QUEBEC CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BRITISH WHIG.

LETTER NO. IV.

Quebec, Feb. 9th.

DEAR WHIG,—

The war goes bravely on. Messrs. Cartier and Galt have spoken in addition to Mr. Macdonald, and Mr. Brown is to speak today. Then Mr. McGee follows, and Ministers will have said all they want to say. Of course they will have to reply to the Oppositionists, but it is not likely that any fresh matter will be brought forward. The greatest trouble that Ministers expect to encounter, is the opposition of their own friends to the details of the measure. Each member has some pet idea of his own touching some particular portion of the scheme. A few, for instance, think that the Legislative Councillors should be elective; others again fancy that ten years would be the proper duration of a member's period of service. And so on with all the other details. The Ministry can't please them all, so in all probability, they will rigidly adhere to the original scheme as embraced in the Resolutions agreed on in Conference.

Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's quaint saying that Ministers are outrageously and ridiculously strong is much commented on here, and causes many a laugh. But why should it not be strong, when we reflect of whom it is composed? Passing the French portion of the Lower Canada Section by, being, with the exception of Mr. Cartier and the Premier, Sir Etienne Taché, composed of gentlemen not well known in Upper Canada, we there not Messrs. Galt and McGee, two of the cleverest men in the land, to do honor and credit to any Cabinet. And as for the Upper Canada portion, where can you find six gentlemen at all comparable in point of talent and practical knowledge with the six gentlemen who compose it? Let me enumerate them. First, there is Mr. John A. Macdonald—where can his equal be found as a statesman and a jurist? Even his enemies acknowledge him to be the first man in Canada. Mr. A. Campbell, for a safe, sound, practical man of business, of pleasing and winning ways, where can he be surpassed? He may not be as brilliant as Mr. Macdonald, but he makes an admirable leader of the Legislative Council; while he manages his own Department, Crown Lands, in a way that must win the admiration of all who have occasion to do business with it. He is confessedly the best Crown Lands Commissioner that Canada ever had. Mr. Cockburn, the Solicitor General West, labors under the disadvantage of being a novus homo, comparatively new to Parliament, and wholly new to official life; but this is a good fault, for every day will mend his position. He does not say much in the House, and what he does in Council is kept private; but when he speaks he is always judicious and to the point. At home, he heads the Bar in his town and county, a sure criterion of talent in his profession; and when he has been longer before the country, I have no doubt but he will rise higher in public estimation. These three gentlemen form the Conservative part of the Upper Canada Section of the Ministry. Let us now look at the Reform Section.

First there is Mr. George Brown, the first in importance, and perhaps the first in point of general ability. Mr. Brown has been many years before the country, as the able journalist in it. He made the Press of Canada what it is, an honor to the Province, and by his innate indomitable pluck and perseverance, has forced himself into the post he now occupies. If his friends in Parliament have confidence in him, surely he deserves it. Mr. McDougall, one of the ablest debaters in the House, is not a whit inferior to his old friend and prototype, Mr. Brown. He is a shrewd, intelligent man, well acquainted with Canada, and up to every move on the political board. By a long consistent life he has proved his devotion to his political principles, and now that he has taken office, and can carry those principles into action, it is not likely that he will prove false to them. He well knows in politics, as well as in affairs of ordinary life, that honesty is the best policy. Then there is Mr. Howland, the Post Master General, last but not least. This gentleman's modesty and reticence keep him from being so favorably known as his two Reform conferees. When he gave way to Mr. Holton, as Minister of Finance, many of his friends thought he had made a mistake, that he was by far the abler man, and certainly, during his year of office, he commanded the respect of both parties, whatever the one might have expressed. It is a fair criterion to judge by, when a man of business manages his own affairs, so as to become both wealthy and respected, that he is competent to manage those of the nation, since the same common-sense, the same industry, and the same integrity are as necessary in the one as in the other. Mr. Brown must have thought so when he chose him from among so many of his political adherents to take the place in the Cabinet vacated by Mr. Mowat. With six such men from Upper Canada, is it to be wondered at that Ministers should be 'outrageously strong?'

But it is a good thing to have an Opposition for the look of it, though, like Othello's, its occupation is gone. Messrs. Sandfield Macdonald, A. A. Dorion, Holton, and Perrault still occupy the front seats of their party's side. When any of the Ministers are speaking, they open their eyes, take notes, glance at one another, and look daggers, if they don't use them. They remind one sadly of Goldsmith's lines—

"Like broken tea cups, wisely kept for show,
Ranged on front benches, glisten in a row."

And that is pretty much all they have done as yet. But, doubtless, they think there's a good time coming, and they'll be in readiness for it when it does come. That the good time may be a long time coming is the prayer of

Yours,

AN OBSERVER.

MONDAY MORNING, FEB. 13, 1865.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM "D."

Quebec, Feb. 9th, 1865.

DEAR WHIG,—

Outside of the Parliament House there is but little to write about, and in fact there is but little to write about in the House, beyond the all-important topic of Confederation.

In looking over the Parliamentary papers, I see a notice of motion to be made by Mr. J. S. Macdonald, relative to a monument to the memory of the late Hon. W. H. Merritt. This is a most praiseworthy step, and if carried out, will wipe off many of the misdeeds of the mover. This is about the only matter of importance on the notice paper of to-day.

On the subject of Confederation, nearly all the luminaries of the Ministry have spoken, and to night comes on Mr. McGee. On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Cartier occupied the floor with a speech in English, and a portion of the evening with a French one. Mr. Cartier cannot be said to be a pleasing speaker, but he has the faculty, which is wanting in the Commons of Canada, of speaking to the point, and I must say that his speech was a complete success. He was followed by Mr. Galt, who gave a "figurative" speech. He gave us the statistics of all the different Provinces, and what chances would be ours, should we be joined with the Lower Provinces. Last night Mr. Brown spoke for no less than five hours, and to use a very bad pun, the Opposition were completely "done brown."

From what Mr. McGee has written and spoken on this subject, we may expect something beyond the common to-night. After he finishes, Confederation will be dropped for a week, in order to permit Messrs. Holton, Dorion, Dunkin, F. U. Wallbridge and other "coal oil" lamps of the Opposition to trim their wicks.

By the bye, I may as well give you the little chat of the House. It is said that an honorable member intends bringing a Bill to incorporate Messrs. Dunkin, F. U. Wallbridge and Holton as Parliamentary nuisances. I will send you a copy of the Bill when it comes before the House.

In the Upper House, Mr. Campbell made a very splendid speech on the subject of Confederation, touching on the constitution of the Upper House, which, in my mind, disposed of all arguments against the nominative system. Of course it is easy to understand the reputation of some members of that sage body, as they are perfectly well aware, that unless they do fight against it, they will have no further chance of displaying their eloquence in the Halls of Parliament. This goes very much against their feelings, and no doubt it is hard to ask a man to sign away his existence. Sir E. P. Tache also made a very good speech, Mr. Letellier is doing the part of a Holton of the Council, Mr. Dunkin, however, having copyrighted his character, no one has attempted to "do" him in the Upper House.

Yours, &c.,

"D."

HAMILTON ELECTION.—At the nomination on Monday Messrs. Magill and McElroy were nominated. Mr. Magill received the show of hands.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 14, 1865.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

O. D. & Co., Boston; J. J. & Co., New York; G. S. London, England.

QUEBEC CORRESPONDENCE OF THE BRITISH WHIG.

LETTER NO. V.

Quebec, Feb. 10th, 1865.

DEAR WHIG,—

Ministers have had their say, and a respite of the apparently interminable Debate on Confederation is concluded for a week. This has been done for the purpose of allowing the country to be put in full possession of all the facts and arguments contained in the five Speeches made by Ministers in the House. In order to do this the better, the Speeches have been taken verbatim, and the House Printers are to print them at the usual rates, and then they will be sent to the constituencies in the ordinary form of 'Votes and Proceedings.' At least such I suppose will be the mode of distribution. In the meanwhile, the Quebec newspapers have given these Speeches verbatim, and very copious abstracts of them have already been published in the leading journals of both sections of the Province, so that the pains and expense taken by the Government will be thrown away.

Of all the Speeches delivered, I think the public will like Mr. Brown's the best. He seemed so much in earnest and he seemed to speak so much ex-cathedra; and as he had recently returned from Home, where he had several interviews with the Colonial Minister, he laid down the law, not as a thing to be done, but as something already had and determined on. But good and exciting as his Speech was I presume many of his late friends will cut it up. I quote from a Quebec newspaper of this day, the following complimentary remarks on Mr. McGee's Speech:—'Mr. McGee's address was couched in the happy and well-chosen language which the honorable gentleman is wont to employ in his most ornate speeches. We do all that is necessary to convey to the public mind that this oration was such as would have adorned the legislative halls of any country in the world. The illustrations were numerous, lively and appropriate, while the more serious portions of the address were vigorous and edifying. The allegory of the three warnings, though not new, was well applied; and the allusions to the growth of American power, and the changed character of the people as fraught with danger to Canada, were not only suggestive, but full of grave warning of the dangers which menace us, and the utter insecurity of our position, and that of the other Provinces. In union Mr. McGee contended we should find strength which would afford security, and while in times of war we should be safe, so in the times of peaceful commerce Confederation would afford advantages which others now reaped. Confederation! 'There it is before you, you shall take, or you shall leave it; and that, too, as it is; not one jot or tittle may you alter. The compact is of five parties, and the alteration by one party destroys the whole.' Thus did Mr. McGee manfully tell the House that they were at liberty to reject the scheme, but that its mutilation could not be permitted.

Although the main attention of the House all the present week has been directed to the one thing, Confederation, yet a good deal of desultory business has been transacted. During the sittings between three o'clock and six o'clock, the time was occupied in routine business, asking questions and the introduction and reading of Bills. The time of receiving Petitions for Private Bills was extended to the 23rd of February, and that of the Bills themselves to the 22nd of March, and that of receiving Reports on these Bills to the 16th of March.

Mr. Chapais (Public Work) said that the Government intended to pay the Damages on Lands in Glengarry and Beauharnois, caused by the Dam at the head of the Beauharnois Canal.

Mr. John A. Macdonald at the same time told the House, that the Government had no measure in preparation to defray the expenses of Crown Witnesses, but that exceptions would occasionally be made, as heretofore.

He also said, that a measure would be brought down this Session for increasing the number of Volunteers, and for the better drilling of the Service Militia. This announcement was received with acclamation. I do not think that the present Get Militia Law will be much meddled with, the attention of the Premier, Sir E. P. Tache, being otherwise taken up with bigger matters, but it will be made much more effective and be generally improved. Its repeal is delayed only.

Mr. Wallbridge's Bill for the County Councils to borrow money for poor farmers to purchase seed, is likely to pass, but it will be confined to the County of Hastings, and not be made general.

Mr. Scatcherd's Bill for extending the jurisdiction of the Division Courts is regarded with much attention. Mr. Brown likes the Bill, but thinks if the Lawyers once get into these Courts their usefulness will be endangered; while Mr. A. Mackenzie is of opinion, that it the better class of lawyers would practice in them, it would keep out the pettifoggers, who now engross the whole business, to the serious detriment of their unfortunate clients, who in nine cases out of ten would be better without them.

Mr. Macdougall made a statement touching Mr. Cowan's Bill to repeal the Agricultural Law and enact another. He thought the matter had better be postponed until that of Confederation was determined in the affirmative, because, in that case, it would be better to prepare two Bills, one for Lower Canada and one for Upper Canada. The Government had the subject in consideration, and would deal with it this session if it could be dealt with advantageously. It ought to be made a Government measure. He also objected to Mr. Perrault's Bill to amend the 'Patent Law,' on the same grounds. No one could tell what changes would take place if the proposed Union be enacted. And as Mr. Wallbridge opposed the Bill on principle, Mr Perrault had to succumb, and the Bill is lost.

Multitudes of Bills pour in every day, but what is to become of them, the Lord only knows. Bills on Musk Rats, Bills on Bees, Bills on the most trivial subjects, Bills on Canada Thistles, and Bills on every thing. Surely the proposers of these silly laws ought to wait until the great question of the day is decided, and then these things could be managed at the Local Parliaments, if not delegated to the County Councils. The idea of a grave Legislature, composed of Governor General, Legislative Council, and Members of Assembly legislating on a flight of Bees!

A Deputation of Brewers is in Quebec, and, with Mr. Carling at their head, are attempting to effect some alteration in the vexatious mode adopted by the Revenue Inspectors, in the collection of the three cents per gallon excise duty on Beer. Mr. Galt has promised them redress, and I am told that Mr. Bouchette, the Commissioner of Customs, has been directed to enquire into their alleged grievances, and make a special report.

I have reason to know that the Government highly approve of Judge Smith's firmness in the matter of the Raiders at Montreal.

The debate on Confederation will be continued in the Upper House on Monday. A division is expected then on Mr. Sanborn's motion, which will be negatived. The Confederation scheme will pass easily through the Legislative Council.

To-day is one of the coldest days ever known in this the coldest part of inhabited Canada.

AN OBSERVER.

The Editor's Table---No. 383.

Very little on 'Our Table' the past week, and that little very easily disposed of.

REPORT OF THE POST MASTER GENERAL OF CANADA for the Nine Months ending June 30th, 1864. A Blue Book. 8vo. pp. 225.

This is Mr. Mowat's Report and contains an immense amount of very useful information, as may be imagined from its length. The emoluments of every Post Master in the Province are recorded, and this enables us to judge of the amount of business done at the respective Post offices. It has long been a standing reproach, that the Post office at Kingston Mills should be located where it is, a full mile away from the Mills, and in a most out-of-the-way place. That the Post Master would lose little by its removal to a more convenient spot may be judged of from the amount of his emoluments during these nine months. Commission $8,11, allowance for stationery $1,50, in all $9,61—for nine months' labor. Were the Office removed to the Mills, as we hope and trust it will, these sums will be encreased ten fold at the very least.

	REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.	TOTAL
1863 (nine months)	$569,606	$564,980	
1864 " "	622,354	602,972	

The revenue for the nine months ending June, 1864, according to the above figures, was $52,748 in excess of the revenue of a like period in 1863, an advance of rather more than 9 per cent. The total expenditure, too, for the nine months ending June, 1864, was about $37,000 in excess of the same item for nine months in 1863—the excess being explained in the Report to have arisen on various items of charge incidental to the growth of the department and the expense of collecting the increased revenue.

THE LOCAL COURTS AND MUNICIPAL GAZETTE. Vol. I, No. 1. W. C. Chewett & Co., Toronto. $2 cash.

This is the other port on of the late U. C. Law Journal. We don't like the change and therefore cannot praise it. The publishers may nevertheless find their account in it, and as it concerns them more than it does us, let it pass. The Municipal Gazette is intended chiefly for Clerks and Bailiff's of the Division Courts and for those who practice in them.

OLIVE LEAVES FOR YOUNG METHODISTS.—Vol. I. No. 1. R. Moore, Toronto.—Monthly. Six copies for one dollar.

A very pretty Illustrated 4to newspaper for Young Children of the Methodist Connexion.

THE GENESEE FARMER for February, 1865. J. Harris, Rochester, N. Y.

THE RURAL ANNUAL AND HORTICULTURAL DIRECTORY for 1865. J. Harris, Rochester, N. Y. 25 cents.

Such is the title of a neat little work of 120 pages, issued each year from the office of the Genesee Farmer, Rochester, N.Y. The volume for 1865 is just out. It contains a large amount of information for the farmer, fruit-grower, and every one interested in the cultivation of the soil. Among the principal topics discussed are: The Pear Tree Blight; Raising Clover Seed; Clearing Old Sods; New Method of Training Pear Trees; Pruning; Chicory as a Substitute for Coffee; The Golden Age of Fruit Culture; Poultry as Egg-Producers; Experiments in Feeding Hogs with Different Foods; Fattening Cattle in Winter; Grafting Old Orchards; Artificial Manures; with many other articles of great interest.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

We visited the other day to some beautiful Oil Paintings (Copies of well known Works of Art), exhibited for Sale in Princess Street.

MR. CALE IN KINGSTON.—He has kindly sent us some charming Photographic Cards, executed in a style wholly inconceivable a couple of years ago. Two Heads of Napoleon, Uncle and Nephew, show the most delightful things to look at, may pose the impress of the most elaborate engravings, and were it not that they are so ridiculously cheap, would be worthy of the attainment frames for preservation. Also, smaller Cards for Albums, including specimens of exquisite workmanship—'The Death of Cleopatra,' and 'The Courting of Uncle Toby.' His Cards of Statuary also likewise perfect gems of art.—We recommend a call while Mr. Cale stays in Kingston.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Quebec, February 9.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald introduced a Bill intituled "the Amended Assessment Act of 1865."

Mr. Allan resumed the adjourned debate on the Confederation address. He argued that as individuals in private matters allowed discretion to their agents, so the people in this might properly entrust the division to their representatives in Parliament. The question had been before the people for three months, and he believed they understood it and would have spoken out against it if they did not approve of it. If these members, looking in the circumstances of the times, thought it best that the proposed constitution should be accepted they were guilty of an dereliction of duty in not waiting for a special appeal to the people. He proceeded to argue generally in favor of the scheme as adding to the strength, the resources and the chances of prosperity of the country; and with respect to the Elective Council perhaps an elected member could not pronounce the best opinion upon it. Yet if there were danger of collision between the two Houses likely to arise out of the Council when wholly elected, claiming functions as representatives of the people, which nominated members could not claim, that danger would largely disappear if the Council were nominated. He thought the bargain could not be bad for both parties, for both the maritime and the Canadian Provinces, as had been represented. It would be a great mistake to let the opportunity slip. 'There was a tide in the affairs of men which taken on the flood, leads on to fortune.' Our tide was flowing now; we ought not to let it ebb without action to secure the fortunes of our country.

Mr. Sanborn moved, in amendment, that the following be substituted instead of section 8th of said resolutions:—

"Upper Canada to be represented in the Legislative Council by 24 elective members and Lower Canada by 24 elective members, and the Maritime Provinces by 24 members, corresponding with 24 elective members in each section of Canada; of which Nova Scotia shall have 10, New Brunswick 10, and Prince Edward Island shall have 4; and the present members of the Legislative Council of Canada, as well as the members, as elective members, shall be members of the first Legislative Council of the Federal Parliament. The appointed members, to remain for life, and the elective members for eight years from the date of their election, unless removed by death or other cause; their successors to be elected by the same divisions and electors as have elected them; and Her shall be permitted to the Maritime Provinces to appoint 10 additional members for life—4 for New Brunswick, 4 for Nova Scotia, and 2 for Prince Edward Island, to correspond with the present life members from Canada; and that after the first appointment of members in the Maritime Provinces, no new appointment shall be made except to supply the places of vacancies by death or otherwise in the 24 members appointed to correspond with the elective members from the two sections of Canada. That in the 11th section, after the word "Council," in the first line, the following words be added:—'In the Maritime Provinces, that section footnote be struck out.' The gentleman supported his amendments in a speech of about two hours, declaring himself in favor of the principles of federation—and of union of the Colonies as a general proposition, but objecting to some parts of the present plan, and to the manner in which its adoption was asked for. He specially objected to the resolutions to make the Legislative Council nominative instead of elective. This was the most objectionable feature, he most distasteful to the country. He thought that the scheme was more republican than the Constitution of the United States than that of Great Britain. Let us take time, taken to mature and adopt alike articles of Confederation and the subsequent consideration of these States, framed by some of the wisest men the world ever saw, as admitted by Attorney General Macdonald. In this case the several States took two years in the other four years in accepting the Constitution. Here we were asked to do it in three or four years. There too was an absolute necessity arising out of war and the defenceless position which forced union on them. There was no such necessity for us here. Coming again to the subject to the Council he agreed that we ought to have a right at least to decide for ourselves how our part of it would be made up. Our Ministers and delegates did not declare themselves favourable to a change. It must therefore have been forced upon them, representing, as they did two-thirds of the population, of the proposed union, by the delegates representing the other. It was said the federal Parliament could make a change if it thought best. If it could make a change in the scheme, could we not venture to ask them to make it? To limit the number of members was a violation of the theory of the British constitution. He thought we had incorporated in this scheme the germ of State rights—rights out of which the civil war in the United States had arisen. He argued that property rights, considered the most sacred by the British people and their legislators, could not safely be entrusted to local Legislatures. It would decrease our credit instead of raising it, as they might legislate confiscation.

Sir. E. P. Tache said such legislation would be disallowed.

Mr. Sanborn resuming to the argument of necessity, argued that we had been fifty years at peace with our neighbours, and might remain so if we chose for the next fifty. They never attacked us for aggrandisement, only when at war with Britain. The British constitution, or any others which had the affections of the people, had been gradually bought by the sacrifices and the blood of the people; or it had emanated directly from the popular will, from the hearts and the intellect. Those imposed on them, as this was sought to be, had no root in the soil. They could not hope to see it grow and thrive and resist the storms sure to assail it. He concluded by moving his resolutions.

Mr McPherson spoke warmly in favour of the resolutions. He did not think they would rate their franchise away. The people of each Province would still have a like number of representatives. He thought the country understood the question. The resolutions had been three months before them in print, and they were intelligent enough to comprehend. Proceeding to consider financial arrangements, he said he thought them fair to all sides, and such as should be approved by the Council.

The Council adjourned at six o'clock.

Secretary's Office,
Quebec, 11th February, 1865.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz:

William Davis Ardagh, Esquire, to be Deputy Judge of the County Court of the county of Simcoe.

Neil Fleming, Esquire, M. D., Associate Coroner, United Counties of Huron and Bruce.

Walter Ribridge, of Peterborough, J. G. Meredith, of Dundas, Richard Haven, of Hearningford, and Rodger Bowlby, of Colson Station, Esquires, to grant Passports and Certificates to British Subjects to enable them to travel in Foreign parts.

—New York, Feb. 15—The gold market continues very lagged. Speculation is rendered very difficult from the fact of there being almost no export demand, and little required for the spring trade. Sterling exchange have been steady, at opening 200 from 203½ to 207.