

no means been a merely sentimental grievance. It has taken the substantial shape of sectional legislation. Whatever may be thought of the working of "Protection" in Ontario or Quebec, there can be no two opinions as to how it is operating in the outlying portions of the Dominion.

In the Maritime Provinces and in the west it is veritable "non-reciprocal spoliation." The sea-side members of the Confederation are compelled to purchase their flour and manufactured goods from Ontario, while that Province requires and takes few or none of their products in exchange. The North-West, on the other hand, is kept almost entirely dependent on the same Province for the necessities of life; and, by way of compensation, is accorded the privilege of selling its wheat in the east, if it can, at English market prices. While, therefore, the provincial—and strongest—sentiments of the people have been outraged under Confederation, equal violence has been done to their material interests. Is it surprising, then, that the "national" feeling, of which there is so much prating at times, exists only in the imaginations of a class of journalists and interested politicians? Can we wonder that ill-concealed dislike of the Dominion, which has long filled the heart of the people, is now bursting forth in various quarters to the no small dismay of those who have been trying to persuade themselves and others of its non-existence?

If the existing is a regrettable state of affairs, and it will probably be generally admitted that it is, the first aim of patriotism should be to find a remedy. The practical man will readily see that the initial step must be the removal of material stumbling-blocks from the pathway of Confederation. Humanity must be well-fed, well-clothed and prosperous before it becomes sentimental. Above all things, it must be secure, both in purse and person. It will be in vain to preach patriotism to Provinces which have had neither time nor cause since the consummation of the Union for the cultivation of the feeling, while their commercial interests are being sacrificed and their future endangered. Antagonism to the Dominion must increase rather than diminish until the Confederation can be made to benefit or, at all events, can be prevented from injuring the Provinces. In one of two ways only can this be effected: by the adoption of absolute Free Trade, or, since the American markets are of infinitely greater importance to us than any others, by the bringing about unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States. The first is perhaps, in the present state of feeling on this continent, out of the question. The second is practicable. It might be secured either by a Customs Union or by concurrent legislation. Having been secured, the causes now endangering the stability of the Union would have disappeared. Each Province would then have access to its natural markets. The stand-and-deliver attitude of the larger, which the smaller have now so much cause to resent, would no longer be a source of irritation. In so far as its natural conditions would permit each and every Province would then be given an opportunity of becoming prosperous. Under such circumstances there would be some chance for growth of feelings of loyalty and affection for the Federation. Our interests would be closely concerned in its preservation; and it is as true in national as in personal matters that where men's business is there also will their hearts be.

Canadian patriotism having been made possible, it would next be our duty to cultivate that sentiment. To this end we should first have to become better acquainted with each other. In no other way could long-standing prejudices be dispelled; fortunately there would be no lack of opportunity. In a few months more a highway will have been opened up from ocean to ocean, making even the most distant Provinces near neighbours. Then we shall have within ourselves easily accessible varieties of climate and scenery, suitable to the most widely diverse tastes. The people of every section will find something new and attractive in every other, the denizens of hot and dusty inland cities will have charming summer resorts provided for them on the Pacific, in addition to those they now enjoy on the quiet bays and inlets of the Atlantic. The lofty peaks of the Rockies will invite with their majestic beauty the children of the plains and the dwellers amid tamer eastern scenes. The great inland seas, island-dotted lakes and mighty rivers, will excite the wondering admiration of even the ocean-side people. To have travelled over Canada will be to have acquired a fair idea of all that is naturally grandest and most beautiful in the world. With such inducements to become acquainted with their own country, Canadians might well cease spending all their vacations abroad. Those who devoted one summer to a trip down the St. Lawrence—which once made can never be forgotten—and a season's rambling amid the striking beauties of the historically and poetically interesting Atlantic Provinces, would be able to find "infinite variety" the next in the luscious climate and dreamy loveliness of the shores of Vancouver. Yet another season might be spent amid mountain grandeurs, before which even Alpine magnificence pales. Other scenes of scarcely

secondary interest invite on every hand. In spying out our country—who could help loving such a country?—we should get to know, to understand, and, with adventitious causes of ill-feeling removed, let us hope to appreciate each other aright. When that time comes, further discussion of Canada's future will be unnecessary.

W. E. M.

### ENGLISH LETTER.

CHESTER, January 12th, 1885.

I HEAR friends who have lived in Canada and other colonies talking of the unique interest of getting one's weekly paper out there as a sensation which we at home can't the least understand, whelmed as we are under the cataract of periodical literature (mostly rubbish). I believe there is a good deal of truth in the assertion so far as the ordinary Londoner goes, at any rate if he frequents a club. But for the Englishman out of London—unless he be a man with a diseased appetite for the sort of loathsome gossip and scandal of the passing hour which the society papers purvey—the arrival of his weekly paper is about as well appreciated as though he were on an Ontario farm. At any rate I can speak for myself. I take only one English weekly paper, the *Spectator*, and one Canadian, THE WEEK, and as a rule I should be puzzled to say which I should miss most. I have only spent some three weeks in the Dominion, but the memory of my two visits is full of very deep interest; which grows stronger as the hand on the dial of our national history moves on, even more quickly, in these strange eventful times in which we are living. For to my mind by far the most vital question which this generation of English-speaking folk have to face is, What are to be their relations in the future? Will they hold together in some form of Union or Confederation which will give the man born in England, or Canada, or South Africa, or Australia, the full rights of citizenship the moment he sets foot on land in either continent where the red cross flag floats; or, are we to break up into a number of independent republics, with no tie to bind us together except our mother-tongue, strong as that tie must always be?

Now I have never had a moment's doubt as to the side I should take. I have always sympathized with the efforts of Germans, Italians, Slavs, to assert their respective nationalities, and rejoiced over the splendid success which has crowned those efforts within my own memory in the case of Germany and Italy. I was warmly on the side of the Northern States in the war for the preservation of the Union, and I have never been able to see why this instinct, principle (call it what you will), which is working so mightily in other races at this end of the nineteenth century should not affect us also. And so I hailed with joy, and am a loyal member of the Association which, under the presidency of Mr. Forster, has at last been founded in the hope of bringing this question to the front, and finding some practical solution, if possible, for the problem; or, at any rate, of making it impossible that we should all find the crisis upon us before we have given it a serious thought. The publications of that association, and the tone of the speakers at its first conference, seem to me to be just of the right kind. No cut-and-dried system has been put forward, everything is tentative and modest; an admission on all hands of the great difficulty of the task and willingness to listen to counsel from whatever latitude or longitude it might come. The list of members of the Association already includes the names of many of the most able and thoughtful men in the Empire. At the Imperial Confederation Conference Canada was represented by her Premier, who, without compromising himself or his country, undoubtedly left the impression that he and they were in sympathy with the aims of the Association.

So now I think you will see why, in these latter days, the arrival of my WEEK does not fill me with the same unalloyed satisfaction that it used to do. I glance nervously down the columns to see whether there is any notice of Imperial Federation, that I may swallow the almost certainly bitter dose at once, and, like a child with its Christmas pudding, keep the best till last. Not that I should so much mind—or I think not—if you came out fairly and squarely against the principle which we Federalists advocate. Then one would at least hear the strongest arguments against our policy, and be helped thereby either to hold our own more strongly or to abandon it as a dream too good to come true, and too vague to work for. But, as it is, no such help comes to us from THE WEEK! That you do not hold with us is, I think, plain enough; but why I am unable to satisfy myself. Besides "hinted doubts and hesitating dislikes," when I have searched for your own view I only gather that "the strong hand of destiny is shaping the future, and things tend to the natural course into which they will fall almost automatically." One is inclined to reply to them with the emphatic Scotch nobleman, "By God, Donald, we must help her!" The strong hand of destiny is guided by human will to a great