

to an impossibility, but who recoil before a measure of prime necessity.

What is there so extravagant, so frightful in the measure of confederation, in that first step of an infant nation, beginning to walk alone? Ye are brothers, alarmed at sight of this new sprung boldness, which is smiled upon and encouraged by the mother. Ah! brethren, how puerile are your fears. We no longer recognise the theorists of former days, the brave, the courageous champions of national development. Formerly, the idea of nationality was only a sentiment, but now this idea has grown, and has become an intellectual power. Formerly, this idea was wrapped in swaddling bands; now it is freed from its trammels; it has attained a body, a movement, a future, because circumstances are favourable to its development, and this state of things is due, in part, to the *conservatives* of to-day, who, before were *progressionists*.

The predominant idea which has inaugurated this new position of affairs, apart from those which may be entertained by certain agents, and which should not make us lose sight of the first, is to create in the northern part of America, a distinct power, not in opposition to that which is its neighbour, but for purposes of general interest.

The emotional side of things is always more palpable and more easily grasped than the serious part. Prejudice is a vagabond sentiment, having the entire world for its domain, and its haunts are everywhere numerous. But this malignant, contradictory, sometimes violent spirit, ends in being put aside by a superior influence, which often only shows itself after events have been accomplished.

How often have we not seen what at first appeared impossible, and prejudicial to the public interest, accomplished and recognized as a benefit! There are two kinds of reason in the world: that which is acknowledged, and that which is not acknowledged. The first has always a certificate of long naturalisation in public opinion; the second is an immigrant, most frequently subjected to a cold and unintelligent reception from nearly every one. But in spite of this, the second reason has the right of citizenship in the world, and it finds brains prepared to receive and to welcome it. These brains are at first few in number; the incubation of novelties is slow, and like rare and valuable plants, new ideas take a long time to bear fruit. The child in the cradle belongs to this order. Until he has attained the age of puberty, nay, even till he have reached maturity, what trouble, pains and anxieties does he not cause to those who watch over him, to those who are responsible for his development!

The education of the child is a constantly renewed fact in the world, which is never wanting in the newly born. The same thing