

can be sent by the line now opened throughout for traffic from Halifax to the Pacific coast will not exceed seven days. For Imperial purposes, whether of war or peace, these increased facilities will be most valuable; but the colonists of the Dominion will also profit by the improvement of communications, materially as well as politically. When the development of the railway system of which the new Pacific line is the main artery, has opened up not only Manitoba and the North-west, but the territories beyond the Rocky Mountains, such disturbances as those excited by Riel will soon cease to be possible. Moreover, the vigorous and well-directed political life that has been fostered in the eastern provinces of the Dominion since the spread of the railway system has made confederation a reality, will extend across the continent, and bring the settlers of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, for the first time, really into union with their fellow-citizens on the Atlantic side. The riches of the country which the main line will open up are not yet thoroughly explored, but that they are very great is certain. On the Pacific side there are vast and undeveloped fisheries, forests, and mines; at the base of the Rocky Mountains there are immense cattle ranches; in the prairie country there are boundless possibilities of wheat growing, and in the region bordering on the great lakes—bleak and almost desert as it is—there is much wealth both in minerals and timber. By the mother country, the growth of sense of union among her children must always be regarded as a source of strength, and in these days it points, happily, to a larger and wider conception of Imperial unity which will not remain, it may be hoped, an aspiration only. But, whatever may be the future of Imperial federation, as long as the British Empire holds together, it will be a priceless advantage to us to have command of a great line of communication between the two oceans, spanning the American continent, and passing from sea to sea on British soil, beyond the reach of any hostile attack, and free from the restraints of a possibly embarrassing neutrality.

Although the foregoing, from the *London Times*, may in part, or whole, have appeared in one or other of our dailies, it is deemed of sufficient importance to merit reproduction in our monthly, which we are glad to know, is preserved by many of our subscribers.

Our varied resources, a few of which alluded to in the *Times*, for their development need men of special knowledge, persevering business habits, and either of capital, or of the ability to obtain it. To the older provinces of our wide-spread Canadian nation, and to the British Isles must we look for such aid.

IF YOU GREATLY DESIRE PEACE, BE WELL PREPARED FOR WAR.

We again return to the important subject of shore defences for our Province, harped upon in the *Resources* for months past, ere Russia imagined her chance had come. Out of the seeming evil of the Russian war scare, if it worse prove not, much good

will have been educes to the British Empire, in various ways, if the warning be seriously acted upon. Amongst the rulers of mankind, in some quarters, Machiavellianism is still rampant, and war may be suddenly sprung on the unprepared. Our invaluable coal mines, be it remembered, need, for their proper defence, effective artillery and earthworks, not to be improvised in a week or a month; drilled volunteers should also be ready. With these, the effectiveness of war-ships would be greatly augmented. Only at Esquimalt on Fuca Strait on the American shore of the Pacific, can the British navy in war time, coal and refit. Until necessary measures be perfected, this truth cannot too often be re-iterated.

THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

What is our destiny to be? Whatever God wills. The only points clear as sunlight to us as a people are, that Canada is free, and that we dare not break up the unity of the grandest Empire the world has ever known. Annexation has been advocated, but no one has proved that such a change would be, even commercially, to our advantage. We would get closer to fifty and be farther removed from two hundred millions. Politically, Canada would cease to exist. She would serve merely as a make-weight to the Republican or Democratic party. The French-Canadian element, so great a factor actually and potentially in our national life, would become a nullity. We would surrender all hopes of a distinctive future. Strangers would rule over us; for we are too weak to resist the alien forces, and too strong to be readily assimilated. Our neighbors are a great people. So are the French and Germans. But Belgium does not pray to be absorbed into France, and Holland would not consent to be annexed to Germany. Looking at the question in the light of the past, and with foresight of the future, and from the point of view of all the higher considerations that sway men, we say, in the emphatic language of Scripture, "It is shame even to speak" of such a thing. We would repent it only once, and that forever. Their ways are not our ways; their thoughts, traditions, history are not our thoughts, traditions, history. The occasional cry for independence is more honorable; but, to break our national continuity in cold blood, cut ourselves loose from the capital and centre of our strength! to gain—what? A thousand possibilities of danger, and not an atom of added strength.—*Picturesque Canada*.

MEMOIR OF VICTOR HUGO.

We extract the following from *Men of the Times*:—Victor Marie Hugo was born at Besançon, February 20th, 1802, his father being a colonel in the French army. From Besançon he was carried to Elba, to Paris, to Rome, and to Naples, before he was five years of age. In 1809, he returned to Paris, and received classical education at a religious house. The first volume of his "Odes and Ballads" appeared in 1822, and his tales, "Hans of Iceland," and "Bug-Jargel," were written about this time. In 1826, he published a second volume of "Odes and Ballads," which exhibited a change in his political and liter-