

time ago, a striking editorial appeared in a great Conservative journal maintaining the thesis that Canada was, in sentiment, the most aristocratic of colonies; but Conservative leaders were heard to avow that the article had done them mischief, even among their own partisans, at the ensuing elections. Apart from the political purpose, what good object can be served by inoculating our people with a love of titles? We ask the question with unfeigned willingness to receive social benefits from any source whether old or new. Will anything really chivalrous or graceful, will anything in short but vulgar vanity, be produced. In a social system, entirely different from ours, there may be some force in the maxim *noblesse oblige*; in our social system there is none. Democracy has a nobility of its own, the honour which is freely paid by public gratitude to the benefactors of the community. This, though sometimes misbestowed, is not artificial, but confined to the semblance at least of worth; it cannot be obtained, like titles, by backstairs canvassing and intrigue; if forfeited by misconduct, it can always be withdrawn, whereas the Premier Earl of England after seducing another man's wife is still the Premier Earl of England, and a knight, though he had stolen public money, would be still a knight, and continue to gild infamy with his rank in the eyes of the world. After all, only the crumbs from the table of English aristocracy are thrown to colonists. Knighthood is the regular meed of a Lord Mayor of London who happens to entertain Royalty at dinner, or to be in the chair when a Prince is born. Literary and scientific knighthood is now totally discredited in the Imperial country: the great men of letters and science there have grown too proud to accept it; it is classed among articles suited for exportation to the colonies. The colonies, if they are wise, will ship it home again; it entails invidious and often unjust selection; eligibility to it is now becoming a question of orthodoxy as well as eminence; while many of our intellectual benefactors are clergymen, and as such, are excluded from recognition by the mock-military character of the honour. In one of the