

poverty in the over-crowded old world for the new hopes and aspirations that America offers to himself and children. The influence of immigration on the relative progress of Canada and the United States during the past forty years, whilst the former has enjoyed self-government in its fullest sense, and has assumed almost national responsibilities, may be estimated from the fact that to-day one has a population of fifty millions, and the other only between four and five millions of inhabitants. Yet both countries entered on their work on this continent about the same time in the world's history. Quebec and Port Royal were in existence when the Puritan pioneers were toiling among the rocks of New England. But ever since Canada became a dependency of Great Britain, her progress has been more or less retarded by the fact of her close neighbourhood to the American Republic. Millions of British subjects have ignored the existence of a section of the Empire, where they could find every legitimate comfort and happiness, without forswearing their natural allegiance. A stranger to Canada and her resources would naturally suppose, on revising the statistics of emigration in the past, that there must be some radical weakness in the political institutions of the Dominion, some illiberality in its system of government, or some insurmountable objection arising from soil or climate, or a comparatively limited sphere of natural resources, to account for the remarkable preference so systematically shown by the European world for the American States when it becomes a question of leaving the old home for one beyond the seas. No doubt a great deal of ignorance has prevailed, and still prevails, with respect to the advantages that Canada offers as a home. Nor would it be difficult now-a-days to find in the utterances of some English statesmen and writers more encouragement for the United States than for the Canadian provinces with, so far, certainly, have shown no other aspiration than to work out their national destiny in the closest possible connection with the Empire. So distinguished a writer as Mr. Goldwin Smith, since he has become more closely identified with Canada, has never ceased throwing his *douche* of cold water on Canadian aspirations, or advocating that "Continental system" which, once carried out, would eventually make the Dominion a member of the American Union. Happily for Canada, an amount of interest is being at last taken in her affairs that would have been impossible not many years ago, when the visits of Canadians to London were generally associated with colonial grievances, and the assistance of the Am-