

well known to-day that in the Transvaal war the secret plan of European countries was that Britain should be disrupted and South Africa knocked off her empire. It is well understood that the possession of South Africa is absolutely essential to the maintenance of the British Empire. In 1795, when Great Britain was at war with all Europe she lost about 1,700 vessels rounding the Cape of Good Hope on their way to India, and she became convinced of the necessity of having large coaling stations and depots in that vicinity in order to maintain her possessions in South Africa and thus keep intact the integrity of the empire.

Her colonies are growing into manhood. They are loyal to the core. Their loyalty was shown in the South African war. Although the colonies had no part in the government of South Africa and had nothing to do with the war or its causes, be the latter good or bad, nevertheless when the call for arms was made they responded loyally and did their duty fearlessly and well. The colonies, being new, are filled with a resourceful people, whose individuality is rapidly developing, and the individuality of any young people in a new country is always a great force. Our young progressive people are animated by noble aspirations for the future; and if a union does not take place between Great Britain and her colonies, rest assured the fault will not lie with the colonies, but with the motherland.

#### CANADA'S FUTURE.

We find persons occupying public positions in Canada and the empire at large predicting for Canada one of the five following positions. Many claim that the future destiny of the Canadian people is necessarily annexation to the United States. Others say that Canada will become either a republic or a monarchy. In the latter event, I do not know where we would get our sovereign, unless we chose to elect the First Minister or the Minister of Finance to that position. Others again say that we should remain in our present dependent position but build up our own army and navy. And others claim that we should not only do this but also contribute financially to the support of the empire's military service. But there are others, with whom I am glad to class myself, who aspire to full partnership union with the mother country in all matters in relation to war and trade and politics, so that we should have a parliamentary union between Great Britain and all her colonies.

#### BRITISH HISTORY IN AMERICA.

In order that the present position of matters may be better understood, I think that a little resumé of Great Britain's association with the continent of North America will not be out of place. In 1776 and for ten years anterior to the rebellion of 1776—in other words the war of independence—there were, according to eminent American historians, agitations being carried on by able men for the establishment of a republic on the continent of North America. This was backed up by those who had been exiled from the old land as convicts, because in those days Great Britain used many of the present states of the union as penal settlements. These and their children were filled with animosity to the motherland, and heartily joined the movement for the establishment of a republic. We have had recently from American historians of the most eminent type a good deal of data in connection with this movement. They have shown that for ten years previous to 1776 there was a tyrannical and aggressive movement against those who did not coincide in the views of the agitators, which practically amounted to intimidation.

We find that this movement made headway, due in great measure to the reluctance of the loyalists to make a quarrel. We all know how reluctant people are to attack any public movement. They may have the idea that the movement has for its object some improper end, yet they will hesitate to take action to stamp it out. Therefore anterior to 1776, the loyal men, who could have brought the British government to a sense of its duty, hesitated to take action owing to their reluctance to bring on a quarrel.

Another cause which gave the movement headway was the weakness which leads to making compromises with and concessions to wrong. It is all right to observe the law of compromises, but there are conditions under which the law of compromises or the making of concessions is absolutely contrary to the best interests of a people.

It is now well known that foreigners engineered the movement in the United States and that the folly and neglect of the British government tended undoubtedly to fan the agitation into a flame. The result was that Great Britain lost one-half of the North American continent.

The next period in the history of Britain's rule in America may be taken as the period culminating in the years 1837 and 1838. We find by careful examination of history today that for ten years anterior to 1837 and 1838 an agitation had been going on in the old provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. In Upper Canada it was carried on by English speaking radicals and in Lower Canada by French speaking radicals, and we find that the end aimed at was either the independence of Canada or its annexation to the United States. That agitation was also advanced by the acquisition of foreign gold. The object aimed at was undoubtedly to disrupt the empire. In the agitation were men of considerable ability, but I am proud to say that many of those who took part in the rebellion after-