

by, will do well to study assiduously the sociological and economic questions of the present. Right opinions, and hearts bent on social righteousness, will put them into the way of leading the people to realize in their laws and customs the ideals of God.

And he who would be prepared for the duties of this generation must not be content to read only the books which were written fifty or even twenty-five years ago. He must learn what has been done and written recently; he must read books, and magazine articles which at first glance may seem revolutionary and absurd; he must listen attentively to the arguments of men whom many regard as the foes of good order; and out of all the mazes of confusing and contradictory teachings he must find a path into the open ways of truth.

And when the true way is found it will be discovered to be not extra-biblical, but the righteous application to present-day problems of principles which are set forth in the Scriptures.

O. C. S. W.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.

We have all along been tickling our fancies with a delightful contemplation of no number of future alternatives open to Canada as a nation. We must now leave fancy and face facts. The time has come for Canadian Independence. This proposition is based upon a somewhat careful examination of the facts—our mutual and multifarious relations with England and the United States, our Geographical position, our moral, social, political and economic condition. Men talk of annexation but annexation would be honorable for us only after we had tried independence and failed. And the day that witnesses the birth of Canadian Independence will witness also the eternal death of annexation. Canada should become an independent nation as soon as possible.

1. Because we cannot remain as we are. If we grow weaker we shall become more closely related to England: or, if we become completely cartilaginous she might induce the United States to annex us. But we shall grow stronger; and every advance in Canadian strength is an inevitable step toward Canadian Independence.

2. Because Independence is our only honorable condition. We owe it to ourselves, to England, and to the world to become a distinct nation. If intelligent,

moral and civilized enough to govern ourselves we ought to be brave, strong and honorable enough to take the responsibility of our self-government. This means Independence pure and simple. We are already strong enough to fight our own battles, rich enough to pay our own bills, wise and moral enough to take our place in the family of nations.

3. Because, unless we aim at Independence, there is no reason for our present political being. As we are, we are nobody in particular. We can never make a definite *Canadian* impression for good upon the world. We are now no more Canadians than Nova Scotians or Manitobans. In the strictest sense Prince Edward Island is more truly a nation than is the Dominion of Canada. For the relations of the Dominion of Canada with the power that makes our treaties and enforces them are expressed in the unrepresentative functions of Governor General and High Commissioner.

To our immediate political Independence it may be objected that it is unnecessary and impossible.

1. Because we have no just cause for withdrawing from under British Rule. But we have. Our grievance against England is not that she has attempted to oppress us; not that she has purposely violated our rights; but that she has been too kind to us. By her maternal oversight she has cramped the spontaneous outflowings of our great American life into shallow and artificial imitations of her old European life. She has pampered us at the expense of our self-reliance and national back-bone. If we get into trouble, like a great soft lubber of a boy, we stand aside and watch our mother fight for us. The most benumbing and depressing force at work among us is the consciousness that we do not have to fight our own battles. If when England declared war we knew we should always be attacked; always have to fight, pay our share of the cost and receive our share of the glory then we would have some kind of self-respect. We have little or none now. And so long as, like idiots, maniacs, and insane individuals, Canada is not held responsible for her own acts so long will England's protection of us be simply a process of denationalization and degradation.

2. We cannot become Independent because it would cost too much. This objection refutes itself. It seems that the value of National Independence can be measured with dollars—that money is more than manhood. No nation in the world of our population can begin to compare with us in natural wealth.