

conclusion that, in their opinion, a Colonial Confederation is not the phase of connection with the Throne best suited to our own and to Imperial interests. Such is not the opinion generally entertained here. We have deliberately cast our lot in a Colonial Confederation, and the time which has since elapsed has been too short, and the results, even in that short time, too satisfactory to make us long for any change. In the distant future, however, should there be fulfilled the bright visions which we now entertain of the western territories teeming with population alike with the eastern provinces,—the whole country from Vancouver to Nova Scotia thickly scattered with manufacturing enterprises; our merchant marine, already large, still further increased; our foreign relations requiring more constant attention; and our people alive to their position and appreciative of the duties it imposes upon them,—then will have arrived the time when, in the interests both of ourselves and of Great Britain, we must study deeply and decide on our relations to the Empire. Then will come a time when we may be brought face to face with Independence, not through our own seeking, but in the ordinary course of events as they are now happening. With the vast natural resources which we have of ocean and inland seas, of fields, and forests, and mines, and with a high-spirited population already large, and yearly increasing in numbers, enterprise, and intelligence, it must be apparent to every one who has given thought to the subject that a period will come when the relations of parent and offspring, however kindly they may remain, will of necessity, with such a breadth of ocean between them, be of a different type from those of early years. Maturity of years and self-consciousness of ability give a man an independence of spirit and a self-reliance which prompt him to cast aside the timidity of youth, and to cope with the world himself. It is much the same with colonies with energy equal to our own. They pass through similar phases, from colonial birth to colonial manhood, when national duties and national privileges, are appreciated. That the attainment of this manhood may culminate in Independence is not a mere chimera. "I believe," said the Minister of Finance on the floor of the House of Commons but a few weeks since, "that every man who has paid any considerable attention to the question of the future of Canada is prepared to admit that, with us, it is a struggle for the possibility of carrying out a distinct national existence. This object, which we may sacri-