

their wisdom is proved by the fact that leading minds in the United States are already prepared to move in the same direction. With a Democratic majority in Congress, there is now reason to hope that the Civil Service of the United States will ere long be placed on a substantial basis, and cease to be used as a mere machine for serving the purposes of unscrupulous demagogues and tricksters. There are also signs that the evils of the system of an elective judiciary are becoming quite apparent to the majority of intelligent citizens in the older States, and that it must, sooner or later, disappear with other creations of unbridled democracy. Thinkers, too, are found to urge the necessity of having in the Legislature some responsible body to control and perfect legislation, as well as to give explanations on public affairs; and it may be, the time is not far distant when Congress will agree to provide a constitutional amendment which will give the President's advisers a seat in either House. In the meantime, Canada can be held out in all these respects as an example to her powerful democratic neighbour.

And here the question will probably be asked—Is there at present a tendency towards annexation among any class of Canadians? In the days, now happily long past, when the Canadian provinces were poor struggling communities isolated from each other, not a few of the people were disposed to contrast their poverty and illiberal system of government with the prosperity and political freedom of the American States, and some men of ability and influence believed that the time was approaching for forming a closer connection with their more progressive neighbours. The Union of 1840 was the turning-point in the political

history of Canada. The healthy development of all sources of prosperity brought content and hope to the people, and created that national pride which is the most effective influence against the progress of an annexation sentiment. Then, a quarter of a century later, came the confederation of the provinces to destroy effectually any feeling that may have existed in favor of a political union with the State. The people, year by year, have seen their territory extended until Canada has assumed the proportions of an empire, and now their aspirations take a higher direction than absorption in the ranks of the American commonwealths.

But in order to understand the sentiments of the great mass of the Canadians on a subject concerning which some misapprehension exists in the parent State, we need only consider the character of the ruling classes in Canada. There are now, within her borders, nearly four millions of native-born Canadians, of whom over a million speak the French language. The French Canadians have always, for the most part, held decidedly monarchical and Conservative opinions. A large proportion of the early settlers came from that section where devotion to the king was a powerful sentiment when all the rest of France was mad with republicanism. Removed from the revolutionary influences of the dark days of France, living under the benign rule of England for over a century, the French Canadians have never ceased to cherish a deep attachment to monarchy, and even now their sympathies are with the Legitimists of the parent State. They are remarkable for their devotion to their Church, and are largely directed in all their affairs, temporal and spiritual, by the priesthood. During the war of