

But it is not the mere impossibility of such a dream, nor its intimate association with real arbitrary rule in India and the Crown colonies (I speak here of the *form* of government only and of course with ready recognition of its beneficent results), nor again not merely its evident inconsistency with Canadian nationality, nor any mere fear of danger to Canadian autonomy—though all these have their effect—which prevents Canadians—real native Canadians—from entering into such a purpose with enthusiasm. There is, I repeat, the deeper reason, that Canadians cannot possibly feel that the mere national ideal, whether Canadian, American, or British, will ever satisfy them. That is a legacy from the past, not a promise for the future. As annexation would only have meant the appearance of a still larger American nation, with a still larger fleet with which to strut round the world and with still greater ability to “whip all creation,” so also Imperialism, as it is understood and intended by all real genuine Imperialists, holds out to us, though in another form, the same old suggestion of one great independent nation, just one of the same old nations somewhat overgrown, facing the other nations in the same old way. As an ideal destiny for Canada it represents no advance upon old conditions. It simply asks us to mark time. This is, I feel confident, a strong underlying reason why “Imperialism” is not being embraced with greater eagerness.

There are other reasons also for the lack of sympathy which undoubtedly exists between those many thousands of Canadians on the one hand who love England for what she has been and has done, who are determined not to sever the political tie that joins us and her, who yet are not really “Imperialists”, though they often unthinkingly allow themselves to be called so, and the aggressive, ultra-loyal Imperialists on the other. Canadians are a democratic people and they cannot sympathize with those who in their hearts love an *imperium*, who accept popular government and local autonomy only because they must, and to whom therefore the words “Imperialism” and “Empire”, just because of