

## THE ANNEXATION MOVEMENT.

Since that time discontent with the Conservative Government has increased, in consequence of the scandals unearthed at Ottawa; the proof afforded by the census and otherwise of the failure of the so-called National Policy to realize the expectations from it; and the continued discussion of the advantages of free trade relations with the United States. As a result, a disposition has been manifested in some quarters to favor even political union with the United States as the best means of obtaining such reciprocity, and perhaps as otherwise desirable. A distinguished gentleman, resident amongst us, has for some years advocated that view strongly and perseveringly, and has insisted that political union was for every reason both our best policy and our manifest destiny. One Conservative member of the Ontario Legislature has recently adopted the same view, has openly advocated it, and has induced a public meeting in his own constituency, North Essex, to pass a resolution in favor of annexation.

## NORTH ESSEX.

Too much importance may have been attached to that resolution as expressive of the public sentiment in Essex, for at a subsequent meeting at Windsor (19th November, 1891), a contrary resolution was passed. It was moved by a Liberal, and the report which I have seen does not mention any dissentients. The resolution declared, "That it is the sense of this meeting that there is nothing in the condition of affairs in Canada at present to justify despondency as regards the future, and we deprecate the idea that the people of this country desire any change in its political condition, and we denounce the few malcontents who are thrusting themselves forward and attempting to create a feeling of disloyalty and distrust"; etc. Still more recently, viz., 27th November last, the County Council of the same county passed a like resolution with but one dissentient voice. This resolution was moved by a prominent Liberal and seconded by a Conservative, and was as follows:—"Whereas certain persons of more or less prominence within the county have recently entered into an