

in the depth of your heart, believe no such thing, but are really concerned lest the march of years and the progress of events should evolve precisely opposite results?

You profess yourself a hard-shell, hide-bound Democrat. You can see no good whatever in such a system of government as that under which we live so contentedly. You have no use for Kings, Lords, and Commons. You would always spell people with a big P, and peers with a small one, saving, of course, when the latter accept your hospitality at Skibo Castle, where you display such splendid state.

Now, is it our chief fault that we are a part of the British Empire, and not of the American Republic, and do you really covet us for your own, in order that by our absorption it may indeed be proven that Britain's colonial empire is after all only a "political catchword"?

In default of your frank avowal of what is really in your mind, we can only indulge in surmises, and as these are not particularly profitable, we would crave your attention in some aspects of Canada which you apparently overlooked in your haste to pronounce judgment.

The Dominion of Canada is not yet two score years of age. Previous to Confederation the different provinces now composing it had practically nothing in common save their connection with the Crown. They were to all intents and purposes independent entities, and consequently no large undertaking of a public character was possible. Naturally enough their growth was inconsiderable, and it is not difficult to understand that the idea of annexation to the United States should find a place in the thoughts of some of the leading men.

But Confederation changed all this. The minds of the people were then touched to larger issues. The conception of a national life that should ere very long bring Canada forward to a place amongst the colonial powers of the world, banished all further notion of annexation, and Canadians, ceasing to regard the United States with eyes of awe and envy, began to speak familiarly of "our Sister Republic."

From that day the development of this

Dominion has surely been such as to make it absolutely clear to all, save those who are determined not to see, that, instead of our inevitable destiny being absorption into the United States, the possibility of an independent existence is not as ridiculously remote as the future you so confidently predict for us; or, at all events, that, in the event of Imperial Federation proving something more substantial than an iridescent dream, the position of Canada amongst the constituent colonies shall be of unquestioned prominence.

It would not be difficult to find many justifications for our having a good conceit of ourselves, but we shall be content with a brief reference to but a few. There is, for instance, our Canadian Pacific Railway. Despite the huge population, and the vast financial resources of the great American Republic, it yet remains for her to be able to boast of a line of railway banding the continent from ocean to ocean under one ownership, and holding its own in equipment and management with any of the lines which must needs supplement one another ere they can transport you from New York to San Francisco.

Then, again, there are our canals, with which those below the boundary line can be compared only to their own humiliation. With us an ocean-going steamer may voyage inland to the far western shores of Lake Superior, but with you the possibilities of interior navigation are confined to an ordinary barge, which needs only a pair of tow-horses for motive power.

Comparisons are odious, of course, but at times they serve our purpose better than any other line of argument, and we have one more to make at this point. Next to the negro, the Indian has unquestionably presented the most serious racial problem the Republic has had to solve, and the world knows how she has done it. Like the buffalo upon whom he fed, the redman has been improved off the face of the land that was his by God-given title at a fearful expenditure of blood and treasure. The horrors of that long, ruthless struggle need not be recapitulated, but the pages of their record can never make pleasant or elevating reading.