

intercourse that has been going on for years, especially for the past forty years, have not made a deeper impress upon the political institutions and manners of the Canadian people, who being very much smaller in numbers, wealth, and national importance, might be expected to gravitate in many respects toward a nation whose industrial, social and political development is one of the marvels of the age. Canada, however, has shown a spirit of self-reliance, independence of thought and action in all matters affecting her public welfare, which is certainly one of the best evidences of the political steadiness of the people. At the same time she is always ready to copy, whenever necessary or practicable, such institutions of her neighbors as commend themselves to the sound judgment of her statesmen. Twenty-five years ago at Quebec they studied the features of the federal system of the states, and in the nature of things they must continue to refer to the working of their constitution for guidance and instruction.

The comparisons I have made between the two systems of government, if carefully reviewed, ought, I submit, to show that Canada has been steadily working out her own destiny on sound principles, and has in no wise shown an inclination to make the United States her model of imitation in any vital particular. It is quite clear that Canadians who have achieved a decided success so far in working out their plan of federal union on well-defined lines of action, in consolidating the union of the old provinces, in founding new provinces and opening up a vast territory to settlement, in covering every section of their own domain with a network of railways, in showing their ability to put down dissension and rebellion in their midst, are not, I think, ready, in view of such achievements, to confess failure, an absence of a spirit of self-dependence, a want of courage and national ambition, an incapacity for self-government, and to look forward to annexation to the United States as their "manifest destiny."

But whatever may be the destiny of this youthful and