

could be long maintained. And yet the majority of the Canadian people are not in love with Republicanism. To a practical statesman, this question of the form of government will be one of the most trying problems, if independence ever becomes a living political issue.

Some there are who are oppressed with the fear that if Canada were cut off from the protecting power of Great Britain she would become at once the victim of American aggression. The unfriendly course pursued by the United States Government in relation to the fisheries and seal-taking in the Behring Straits, is instanced in support of this apprehension. But the wisest and most far-seeing will not be alarmed by these imaginary fears. It would be necessary, at an early stage, to have all questions relating to trade, fisheries, navigable waters, and other matters of common interest settled upon some fair basis, and then public opinion in the two countries would enforce the spirit of the Convention. The people of the United States have never been inclined to be aggressive towards Canada, nor would they be unfriendly to an independent Canada. What is distasteful to many of them is to see growing up beside them a great country owning allegiance to a foreign sovereign, and thus in danger of becoming imbued with European rather than American ideas. There is no motive on the part of the American people for hostility toward Canada. They have abundance of territory and ample scope for development, and so long as they saw growing up beside them, and sharing with them the control of the continent, an enlightened nation with ideas similar to their own and with aspirations in the direction of civilization, liberty, and peace, what more could they wish? Besides, if it came to that, in a few decades the Canadian people would be in a position to resist any aggression, and to maintain their rights. God spare us forever the horrors and wickedness of war; but if it must come, it is the northern climes which have given to the world its invincible soldiers.

To sum up, Canada is prosperous, contented, and happy. She may have errors and evils in her administration, but the remedy for these is in the hands of her people. She is growing, and will continue to grow. She is loyal to the Empire, but cannot afford to be always a colony. She may become part of the Empire under a general confederation of the English-speaking communities scattered throughout the world. And she may be absorbed in her great neighbour. But the stronger probabilities are that she will eventually take her place among the nations of the world with splendid prospects of greatness and power. In which case, and in any case, her people will never forget the great nation from whence they derived their origin, and whose qualities implanted in them constitute their strongest hope of success and glory.

J. W. LONGLEY.