

earnestness is his highest praise. Grant, if you will, that it was sometimes enlisted on the wrong side, that the "embodied conscience" was not always an infallible conscience, the force of his great example still remains to bear witness to the truth so much needed in political life, that the law of right is the only true criterion of conduct in the government or nation, as in an individual. The force of his example attests, likewise, the fact that in the long run moral force is the mightiest force, even in politics. His intense moral earnestness was the secret of his wonderful strength. It was the source of the power which enabled him to sway the nation as no other modern potentate, statesman or monarch, has ever swayed it. It was this element in his character—resolve it, even, if you will, for the sake of the argument, into the strange facility which was all that many could see, or at least admit, in it, of persuading himself that any procedure or policy to which he had been induced to commit himself was righteous—which enabled him to elevate and dignify the tone of discussion, in the House of Commons, as no other man could do. The mighty propulsive power of this intense moral earnestness, working in and through a subtlety of intellect, a power of speech, and a strength of will, almost unrivalled, made him invincible on the Parliamentary battlefield. Take him all in all, there is reason to fear that it will be long before the world sees his like in the high places of any nation.

What of the future? No doubt by the time these words are printed, Lord Rosebery will have gathered up the reins which are being held out to him by the Queen, representing the will of the nation, or more strictly speaking, of the dominant party. The protest and threatened revolt of Mr. Labouchere and a few of other extremists of the Radical wing of the party will no doubt prove abortive. There will be, it must be admitted, a subtle irony of fate in the circumstances that the retiring leader should have in his last words in the House, thrown down the gage of battle to the House of Lords, in order that it might devolve upon a member of that Chamber to carry on the fight. Will Lord Rosebery do so? That remains to be seen. He is, no doubt, radical enough in many respects. He was an outspoken advocate of reform of the Upper House many years ago. He knows to what the party is pledged, in respect both to the House of Lords and to Home Rule. It is scarcely probable that he would undertake the very heavy responsibilities, which must, under the circumstances, rest upon the successor of Gladstone and the leader of the Liberals, Radicals, and Home-Rulers, whose combined forces support the Government, unless he was fully prepared to carry out the chief features of that policy. Assuming, on the other hand, that he is really ready and

determined, so far as in him lies, to mend or end the Upper House, his position as leader and most distinguished member of that House will give him an advantage which he could hardly have otherwise had. He cannot be accused of envy or jealousy in seeking to reduce or destroy privileges which he himself shares. With Sir Wm. Harcourt as his lieutenant in the Commons and with the eyes of the party in and out of Parliament upon him, with perhaps a little mistrust, he would be very unwise to undertake the responsibility of the Premiership if he were not quite in earnest in wishing to carry out the programme. Whether he will be able to do so under existing circumstances is another question.

THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

We are not about to deal with the political problem which will be suggested to many by the above heading. We have our own opinions as to the shape which the Canadian solution of that problem will probably assume when the time is ripe for it. But for the present—the futile attempt to arouse a sentiment in favour of "political union" with our cousins to the south having proved utterly abortive—the people seem content to leave the question of any change in our relations to the Mother Country in abeyance. The necessity for immediate change is evidently not pressing, and the disappointing results of the last census have seemingly set all classes of those truly anxious for the progress of the country to thinking about the matter requiring immediate attention, viz., by what means can the increase in population and capital, which are the two great conditions essential to such progress, be brought about.

Notwithstanding the fact that we have not wholly escaped the commercial depression which has been pressing sorely in Great Britain and still more sorely in the United States, there are not wanting hopeful indications that our country will shortly enter again upon a period of real development, which, unless interrupted by some disastrous event which cannot now be foreseen, can scarcely fail to carry us forward to a much more advanced and influential position among the nations of the earth than we have hitherto attained. Without inquiring into the causes of the past slowness of growth, we may say at once that we see, or think we see, good reason to hope that the almost stationary attitude the country has held during the last decade, especially so far as increase of population is concerned, may be followed by a decade of steady if not rapid advance. When a boy the writer used sometimes to amuse himself on the sloping beach of an arm of the Bay of Fundy, in watching and measuring the advance of the incoming tide. When one of the larger waves, which are the *avant couriers* of the invading waters, would throw

its line of surf farther up the beach than any of its predecessors, he would mark its highest reach with pebbles, as the waters swept back in undertow and were lost in the great mass. For several minutes, it might be, every succeeding wave would fall considerably short of the limit thus indicated. But in the meantime the mass of waters and the great ocean without which supplied them would be, rising slowly but surely to the level marked by its greatest advance, until presently another wave would dash on the shore, sweeping away our petty landmarks and leaving its outline much farther up the beach. So it often is with the growth of nations. So it will be, we prophesy, with Canada. During the period of comparative rest, she has been, let us hope, gathering her strength, examining her resources, and gaining, both by experience and by experiment, information that may be turned to good account in the future.

One important ground of hope and expectation is that our country is rapidly becoming better known. Probably we need not hesitate to say that the outside world, and especially the Mother Country, have learned more concerning the climate, the resources, and the various possibilities of Canada, during the last five years, than ever before during thrice that period. Various causes have contributed to this result. It would be invidious to deny that foremost among these is the transcontinental railway, and the Pacific steamship line which it made possible. Whatever objections we may have to some methods used in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and some features of its present management—and we have not hesitated and shall not hesitate to discuss those objections upon suitable occasions—no one can deny that it was built with amazing enterprise and energy, that it is managed with consummate ability, and that it has been the means, not only of opening up for settlement our vast and immensely valuable heritage in the North-West, but of making the Dominion known at the Antipodes and even in Great Britain and Europe, as it was never known before. Of this knowledge it is but reasonable to infer that we have only begun to reap the benefits.

Another course which has contributed to enlarge the commercial outlook of the Dominion, and to broaden the foundations for its future trade, is to be found in the hostile commercial policy of the United States, and especially in the McKinley Bill. This has driven us to look abroad for markets as we should not probably otherwise have done for years to come. It has especially led to a better appreciation and a larger use of the great markets of the Mother Country, though it has not as yet fully opened our eyes to the selfishness as well as unwisdom of the narrow policy which leads us to make so poor and ungrateful