

seriously interfere with the real good of the service. Imagine into what a sad state of disorganization the British army would fall if matters of discipline, properly under control of the Commander in Chief, should be interfered with or set aside by political trickery. While such things are possible in Canada we cannot hope for a really efficient and well governed Force. The gentlemen composing the Militia Staff of the Dominion are as a body able and well qualified for their duties, and we are fortunate in having at headquarters, in the person of Colonel Powell, one who well fills the *hiatus* caused by the retirement of the old and the advent of the new Adjutant General. But the efficiency of that Staff will avail but little, if, in the unavoidable and conscientious discharge of their duties, they become obnoxious to some local demagogue who, from the accident of position, has the power to annoy them even so far as to compel resignation as the only means of avoiding a controversy and persecution incompatible with the dignity of their position.

It has been advanced in Parliament that the present staff is too large and expensive for the duties required of them, and it would be a proper mode of retrenchment to cut it down. This we have always denied for, from the very nature of the service, it is necessary that we should maintain such a staff as, in the event of invasion, will be able to mould the forces called out into proper shape, and which from long experience with the duties of office will be enabled at once to put on the harness for active service and direct the less experienced. Retrenchment here would be in the wrong direction. In another avenue of the same service it might be tried without seriously endangering the public welfare, we will not however, allude to this subject any further at present, being convinced that the Minister of Militia will, in good time, perform the operation of "weeding out." We have been led into these remarks from circumstances naturally recalled by the inauguration of this testimonial movement, which we hope to see carried out successfully. Whether or no Colonel Macdougall can rest assured of the best wishes for his future welfare being entertained by a host of friends among the Volunteers and Militia of Canada.

THE Proclamation by His Excellency Sir John Young appointing the 1st of July, or Dominion Day, a public holiday, has been received with satisfaction in all parts of the country, with the exception, perhaps, of the few malcontents in Nova Scotia who have lately germinated from Repealers into full blown Annexationists. It will be observed that the proclamation not only appointed last Thursday a public holiday but has instituted each subsequent 1st of July the same, thus the object contemplated by Mr. McConkey's bill has been achieved without the trouble of legislation. It is to be regretted that any section of the Canadian

people should feel themselves aggrieved by the Act of Confederation, but it is a still greater cause of regret that they should allow themselves to be carried away so far by passion as to forget both loyalty and patriotism and jeopardize the present peace and future prosperity of their Province. Of course men have a perfect right to talk, and it is generally a safe and innoxious mode of having satisfaction, but, like all liberties, it can be carried too far, and then it degenerates into license and calls for a wholesome check. We are not among those who advocate repressive measures, but there is one thing deeply repulsive to our feelings and which we cannot abide with patience, we mean Disloyalty. If those demagogues who are striving to excite the Nova Scotian people had any real grievances to complain of we could find it possible to forgive utterances of such sentiments as a cooler judgment would condemn, but, as such is not the case, we think it is high time all this rant about Repeal and Annexation was put to a stop. While agitating the former idea they at least claimed the attention of a portion of their fellow subjects, for "fair play" is an instinct in the hearts of our people, but when, in an evil moment for the success of their hopes, they adopted the latter alternative they at once placed themselves beyond the pale of sympathy and performed for themselves a political *auto da fe*. Let us hope the result may be beneficial, indeed, we can hardly see how it can be otherwise, for no man or body of men can talk annexation in Canada with impunity. Public opinion soon puts an extinguisher upon him or them, and they disappear from the political field into which they can never again enter with the faintest hope of success. There are many remarkable instances of this in Canadian history which is pretty certain to repeat itself in the matter to which we have reference.

We are pleased at the appointment of a Canadian national holiday, because we believe it one of the necessities of our national growth, and a step towards the grand object of welding the people of British North America into one family and range them under one banner. Several anniversaries are celebrated in this country with which we have not the remotest sympathy, and which we honestly believe would be "more honored in the breach than the observance." They are foreign to our soil and in some instances offensive to large classes of the population; all these we wish to see replaced by one in which all classes and creeds can join heartily in celebrating, the consolidation of British liberty in America, and the idea so established perpetuated until all other distinctions are lost. Time, we doubt not, will bring about this result, but it is our duty,—the duty of every one who loves Canada—to do everything possible to achieve so desirable a consummation.

Perhaps the strongest source of British power consists in her loyal and contented

Colonies, and it would be a wise policy to continue them in intimate alliance with the motherland, and we are sorry that the idea of separation should be expressed in the British Parliament and by the leader of the Government. But if such is our destiny we would do well to cultivate a national spirit and thus prepare our people for the event. The London *Times* of the 2nd June last thus refers to this subject:—

"Whatever guarantee is implied in the arrangement between Canada and the Company is a guarantee looking, as Mr. Gladstone expressed it, towards the independence of the Colony. The policy of Her Majesty's Government is strictly in accordance with the matured judgment of every one of Her Majesty's subjects in desiring to stimulate rather than to retard the independence of our great dependencies. They have now all the freedom of independence, and recent events have shown them that they have more than the responsibilities of self government, for they may be called upon to bear the consequences of acts over which they have no control. Under these circumstances we may fairly trust to the Colonies themselves to learn the lessons which have been accepted by the Mother Country. It is for the good of the world that adolescence should lead to independence, and we can conceive no nobler ambition for those who have the direction of the policy in the great settlements of English speaking people than to lay the foundations of a separate existence and a separate history in the communities they govern."

There is no mistaking the meaning of the foregoing yet we do not believe that either Mr. Gladstone or the *Times* express the real sentiments of the British people; but, should we unfortunately be mistaken, then it would be our duty to gird up our loins for the effort and boldly march forward upon the path before us. If Great Britain desires to cast us off, of course we cannot crave to be allowed to remain, but we do not believe the time has yet arrived. Indeed we anticipate, after the present radical administration has come to an end, that there will be a revulsion of feeling in England; then we may hope for a change of policy towards the Colonies and a wider consolidation of the British Empire.

In contradistinction to the quotation we have made from the *Times*, we find the following in another paper which gives a truer idea of the relations which exist between Britain and her Colonies:

"At a late meeting of the Society of Arts in London, Mr. J. Robinson, a member of the Legislative Council of Natal, read a paper showing the progress made by the Indian, Australian, North American and West Indian Colonies, between the years of 1851 and 1865. He declared it as his belief that England in her colonies possesses the truest and most lasting source of national greatness, and that the nation was bound, by the most solemn obligations to retain and cherish them. It is, on all accounts, her self interest to do so. In 1851 India and the Colonies were consumers of the United Kingdom to the extent of £20,000,000 worth of British goods, or something more than one fourth of her whole export trade. In 1866 these possessions had increased their consumption of British manufactures threefold; and out of the exports from the