

we have more than one example of the most sturdy independence among Canadian Knights. No one, for instance, has ventured to accuse the gallant Knight of Kingston of lack of either freedom, or boldness, in his criticism of the *status quo*, when discussing the right of Canada to make her own Commercial Treaties. Sir Alexander Galt, also, when offered the honour of Knighthood, reminded the Home Authorities that he held pronounced views in favour of Canadian Independence; and accepted the title on the distinct understanding only that he would still be free to hold those views.

It is, perhaps, not generally known, that there exists a well settled rule, ever since Confederation, that Imperial titles are conferred upon Canadians only after being recommended by the First Minister of Canada. The Knighthoods, which seem to drop so spontaneously from the lap of the Queen, as touching marks of the Royal favour, are just as distinctly bestowed by the leader of the Dominion Government, as is any appointment to the Canadian bench, or any silk gown, which is flung to a party follower at the bar.

Certain titles were conferred early in 1879, many months after Sir John Macdonald had succeeded to office; and it was at the time, a source of wonder that the list contained the names of three Liberals. The explanation, which does not appear to have occurred to many, will be found in the fact, that Mr. Mackenzie had forwarded these names to the Home Government before he left office; and he could probably tell us, if he would, how strongly he was pressed by an exalted personage to make some recommendations of the kind.

The most valued result of a Canadian Knighthood is a certain social rank and precedence, at home and abroad. To Lady X it may be a satisfying honour to be taken in by the host at dinners, and suppers; but the eclat of the husband's title is rapidly diminishing among his neighbours. It is not seldom regarded in Canada as an artificial prop, which sustains the owner at a higher social level than he would otherwise find himself. It is an attempt to place him on a pedestal above our real leaders, the merchant princes, the financiers,