

taxation, high tariffs, and old family feuds may neutralize the influence or geographical affinities and of ties of blood; but time will change all this.

We are on the threshold of another century, and must mould our future by the warnings and the lessons of the past. No one who reads the signs of the times can fail to see that we are on the eve of great changes, and perhaps in time of a "*New Departure*" in the history of the English race on this continent. Already the beginning of the end is at hand. The Old World is bidding farewell to the land, and to the dream of the United Empire Loyalists. While instinctively we are clinging to her skirts, the last hold on them is slipping from our grasp: and when the last British soldier is called upon to do a last act "for the encouragement of trade," by furling the British flag, and carrying it away with him from our shores, he will leave us a *nation*.

While British statesmen are doing so little to realize the idea of a United Empire, and so much to render it impossible, there is an unexpected source of hope from a quarter whence we might least look for it, from a new and mysterious influence that during the past few years is every where making itself felt and obeyed. The tendency to a reunion of races is suddenly developing itself throughout the civilized world in an inscrutable and irresistible way; and language is exerting a new power on the destinies of nations. That it must ultimately make itself felt among ourselves we cannot doubt. The language of commerce is now the English tongue, a fact that was strongly impressed upon the writer during a recent visit to St. Thomas, Santa Cruz, St. Eustacius, St. Bartholomew, St. Martin's, and other colonies in the foreign West Indies, where the Danish, Dutch, Swedish, and French languages have been swallowed up by our own; those islands being English communities in every thing except in name.

The English tongue is now more or less spoken throughout a large portion of the civilized world, and more than one-half of the commerce and shipping of the world is controlled by the English race,