

Referring to the question of the ultimate destiny of Canada, he said :

" In considering the position of Canada, my first question is whether ground can be found on which men of different views will consent to stand. There is such ground. Whether we separate from the Empire to form an independent State, or remain in the Empire, gradually evolving into a position of closer union and equality of constitutional privilege and responsibility, it is equally a matter of the first importance that Canada be united and strong. No matter then which of the two destinies we believe the future to have in store for us, our duty is to be *Canada first men*. This is ground that both unionist and separatist can take honestly. If a man professes independence with the intention of immediately breaking Canada up and handing it over in pieces to another power, he, of course, cannot take this common ground. But it is quite needless to say that there are no such men in Canada. I may pause a little here to point out the difference between the policies of the honest unionist and the honest separatist. The policy of the former preserves our historical continuity and promises peaceful development ; that of the latter means a revolution to begin with, and weakness forever afterwards. Grown-up men know that revolutions are not to be played with, and that national weakness is always next door to national humiliation."

The Principal's predilection for Imperial Federation clearly reveals itself in the foregoing passage. With reference to the annexationist, he went on to say, smiting straight from the shoulder as is his wont when deeply stirred :

" The annexationist at the outset surrenders the name of Canada, with all that it involves,—its history, its constitution, its past struggles, its present life, its hopes and aims,—as things absolutely worthless. *Of course, to some men and all cattle these things are worthless.*"

After touching upon the Jesuit agitation and the bad blood it had engendered, he proceeded to plead for the exercise of a wider charity and more steadfast patience in these eloquent terms :

" We must agree to differ, with the prayer and hope the Head of the Church will find a way of uniting the two great historic confessions of Christianity, that have so long stood face to face as enemies, in a church of the future, grander than any existing church. In the