

the same time, it would have, through differences of origin and more limited commercial relations, a far greater objection to any other European power than Great Britain obtaining a foothold in British America.

In view of all the circumstances of the case, we may well let the question of seeking any political change in our relations to the Empire rest for a time, and devote ourselves more closely to developing the resources of the Dominion, and elevating the character of its people under a Colonial Confederation. We are not yet prepared for any revolutionary changes ; and the advantages which would result from them, if they were at once brought about, are hardly clear. It is, however, the opinion of not a few of those who have given attention to the current of events of the past few years, that the onward progress of the country and the higher intelligence of the people will themselves develop in the course of time a change, and one which may be in the direction of a distinct national existence. It will not be sought for by us, such is our loyalty to the throne. It is just possible indeed that the course of the mother country towards us may suggest it ; and under any circumstances, we shall probably, on adopting it, carry with us Great Britain's good will and friendly alliance. That it is even now the desire of some in England that there should be this change in the relations of the Colonies, is well known. However, the constitution, as well as the present wishes of the people, are opposed to it. In the Confederation resolutions adopted by the conference at Quebec, upon which our present constitution is founded, there were notably two leading principles laid down : that the executive authority or government should be vested in the Sovereign of Great Britain ; and that in framing the constitution, the British model should be followed with a view to perpetuating the connection with the Empire. It was thus we affirmed to the people of Great Britain, and particularly to that party which desired colonial severance, that here there existed the wish to perpetuate colonial alliance. It was a happy result of Confederation that the mere proposal to adopt it should have elicited this expression of the popular will ; and this expression of the popular will inspires confidence in us now, and in the future will bear its fruit in friendly and permanent alliance, whatever that future may be. Some few may think that the choice lies between Imperial Confederation and Imperial disintegration, and, inferentially, we may draw the