

have been surprised at the utterance of such sentiments, but let us consider whether we ought to be so much surprised. The motto of "Ships, Colonies and Commerce," no longer stands where it formerly did in England's policy or practice. It is the great distinction of England as a nation, that she can march with the ages, and can accommodate herself to the progressive development of humanity. Apparently hard to move by the cautious conservatism of her nature, she has yet cherished in her bosom active and patient thinkers,—men of large discourse and fruitful brain,—who could look before and after,—and though she has stubbornly opposed their theories when first propounded, and for a long series of years, she has ended by accepting them, and acting upon them,—thus showing her practical wisdom, and securing her stability as a nation, while other nations were convulsed and overturned by revolution. Hence we have seen in our own time a radical change in her commercial policy after a prolonged conflict of opinion. And this change in her commercial policy involved a change in her Colonial policy, the results of which the people of Canada have already had a large experience. But the full measure of this change in its logical completion has not yet reached us. Nor is there any satisfactory evidence that we see it as clearly, or are ready to meet it as manfully, as we ought. The recent discussions in the British Parliament distinctly foreshadow, with respect to Canada, the logical completion of the established policy of the mother country. They distinctly point to separation and independence.

This, however, is no new thought with British statesmen. More than thirty years ago it was mooted among them. As far back as 1828, Mr. Huskisson, then Colonial Minister, thought that the time had come for the separation of Canada from the mother country, and her assumption of the position of an independent state. In 1854, the Earl of Ellenborough, in the House of Lords, adduced Mr. Huskisson's testimony in support of the views of separation which he then urged. Lord Ellenborough referred to the change which had taken place in the relations of Canada and Great Britain, arising out