

Maritime Provinces, was doubtless preparing the way, very insidiously, but not the less surely, to more intimate relations; and a similar result would assuredly arise from some such Zollverein as has had a few advocates of recent years. But in these times there is not even a fragment of an annexation party in this country, for the rash, impetuous spirits who now and then advocate it represent no party. The progress that has been made since 1867 in consolidating and developing the Dominion has naturally stimulated the pride of Canadians in their own country, and though they are prepared to do full justice to the greatness and enterprise of the Republic to their south, they do not by any means link their political fortunes together in the future, but prefer to believe that, in the work of civilizing the continent, they have each their allotted task to perform in friendly emulation, and in the consciousness that, in the vast unsettled regions which both possess, there is ample scope for the energy and industry of two peoples, sprung from the same races, and animated by the same love for free institutions.

As respects Independence, it is more probable than the destiny just discussed; but at present it cannot assume any practical shape, though the idea may obtain with the ambitious youth of the country that the time must come when Canada will have a place in the community of nations. It is true, her wealth and resources are already greater than those of several independent states on the two continents, which have their diplomatic agents abroad, and a certain influence and weight in the affairs of the world. It is true, a mere colonial system, though it has its comforts and freedom from responsibilities, has also its tendency to cramp intellectual development, and to stamp colonists as inferior to those who control directly the affairs of nations. But whatever the future has in store for them,

Canadians of the present day are too wise to allow their ambition to run away with their common sense, and precipitate them into the endless expense and complications which would be the logical sequence were they to be dazzled by the glamour of Canadian nationality.

The idea of a Consolidation of the Empire is undoubtedly grand in its conception, though very difficult, certainly, in its realization. The idea has, by no means, originated with the present generation of political thinkers. Pownall, Shirley, and Otis, famous men of the old colonial times, believed that such a scheme, if carried out, would strengthen the Empire. One of the most eloquent of Canadian statesmen, the late Joseph Howe, some thirty years ago, gave utterance in a magnificent address to the feelings that animated Canadians when they looked around at isolated colonies whose interests were becoming more jarring and separate as time rolled on.

‘What we require,’ I quote one paragraph from his speech on the Organization of the Empire, ‘is union with the Empire; an investiture with the rights and dignity of British citizenship. . . . The millions who inhabit the British Isles must make some provision for the people who live beyond the narrow seas. They may rule the barbarous tribes who do not speak their language or share their civilization by the sword; but they can only rule or retain such provinces as are to be found in North America, by drawing their sympathies around a common centre—by giving them an interest in the army, the navy, the diplomacy, the administration, and the legislation of the Empire.’

Burke once said, when discussing this question—*Opposuit Natura*, ‘I cannot remove the eternal barriers of the creation,’ though, it must be remembered, he did not absolutely assert the impracticability of colonial representation in the Imperial Parliament. But it cannot be said towards the close of the nineteenth century that Nature interposes barriers to the