

religion, the lack or imagined lack of such mutual interest^t caused them in time to separate. Interests insisted on being considered. On account of the transition stage through which we are passing, the same question of interest must also be considered to-day. Does the British connection pay, is the vulgar way to put it. The question in itself is not a vulgar one. Will the maintenance of English rule conduce to the happiness, the true interests, the intellectual and moral as well as the material interests of the great people which is destined to occupy this continent? This question is usually, I am glad to see, answered unhesitatingly in the affirmative. There are some, however, who do not answer it in the affirmative, for instance, Mr. Goldwin Smith. Now it is the fashion to abuse Mr. Smith for his opinions, and it is hard to deny that he is a poor Britisher and an unfair disputant, but even the devil, as some one has said, has his good points, (we might all imitate his perseverance) and this persistent *advocatus diaboli* and troublesome annexationist is entitled to some credit for having insisted that the interests of the Canadian people should come up for discussion, and that no decision should be reached until all the arguments for and against had been heard. For the future of a great country is too large a matter to be trifled with. In one hundred years we may have a population as great as that of the American Republic at the present time. The welfare of these seventy millions of people must take precedence of all other questions. Even loyalty must bow before such might issues as these. They are enormous, inconceivably vast. Compared with them a few high sounding