

leaders and followers Independents, or "Annexationists in disguise," which accusation will help more than hurt them with the young, practical, and intelligent portion of the people. Hon. Mr. Huntington, Postmaster-General in the last Liberal, the Mackenzie Government, was an avowed Independent.

In analyzing the elements of Canadian public opinion, in order to convey to the reader some idea of the forces operating in the direction of Annexation, I have not by any means exhausted the subject. I prefer moderation in both statement and forecast. But I can not pass over such telling indications of public sentiment as the efforts of the Liberal party, last winter, in the Federal Parliament, to obtain for the Dominion the right of making her own commercial treaties, nor the recent speech of Mr. Edgar, a Liberal leader, in favor of Canadian commercial independence. I may here, too, mention that at a caucus of the Liberals held at Ottawa, on the 13th February last, the policy of Canadian Independence was generally indorsed by the party.

It may be asked by some of my American readers why, if these statements with regard to Canadian public opinion be correct, there is no systematic agitation for annexation afoot, no propaganda of republicanism to bring about a union of the two nations. Several reasons might be given in explanation of this matter, only a few of which I will notice. In the first place, in ordinary times, in the absence of burning questions and harassing popular troubles, most people feel a natural aversion to entering upon revolutionary crusades, involving much notoriety, sharp collision with the partisans of the old system, with other *désagréments* usually experienced by radical reformers at the outset. Many also prefer to take the easiest and quietest method of securing the benefits of annexation, by themselves silently migrating to the Republic, and encouraging thereafter all their friends to follow their example. This, the quickest and most effectual remedy, renders a resort to noisier and more tedious experiments unnecessary. And should the present state of things continue, the people of the United States will have the satisfaction of yearly annexing many thousands of Canadians, as a preliminary to the annexation of their territory itself, a little later. Perhaps, on the whole, it will be best to have the people first,—the country will be sure to follow afterward.