

ported by titles, is purely artificial, and may be said to be even of modern growth; for the fiefs from which the titles of territorial nobility are derived were in early times held by a tenure of military and political duty; while knighthood, as we have seen, was not a title but a vow, and moreover tended rather to equality than to aristocratic exclusiveness, since it placed the landless soldier on a level, as one of a brotherhood in arms, with the lord of a principality and even with a king. Official rank, on the other hand, is natural, genuine, and, if confined within proper limits, wholesome. It is the robe with which the right feeling of the community invests the holders of lawful authority, raised to that trust on account of real qualities and, therefore, reasonable objects of a respect which elevates instead of degrading those who pay it, while it is compatible with a complete absence of personal assumption and with perfect simplicity of life on the part of those to whom it is paid. We could bear a good deal more of this sentiment in these democratic communities of ours, though it will be difficult to commend the lesson to the minds of the people till the false and titular kind of rank has taken itself fairly out of the way. We could bear, too, a good deal more of reasonable ceremony and state, which are as different from etiquette, with its presentation postures, cocked hats, low-necked dresses, and anti-bugby proclamations, as sense can be from the most despicable nonsense. Ceremony, which is truly emblematic and impressive, is the stately vesture of high authority and momentous action; etiquette is childish frippery, which only ceases to be laughable when it is made the noxious instrument of political intrigue. It is perfectly true, and a truth always to be borne in mind by statesmen, that, in politics, as in other departments of life, the imagination had its claims as well as the reason, and that while the one is convinced the other requires to be impressed. But divorce imagination from reason and you will have an abrupt combination of the merely ornamental with the wholly unadorned; you will have the same sort of spectacle which greeted the eyes of Captain Cook when, having presented an influential South Sea Islander with a laced coat and cocked hat, he found him standing proudly at the right hand of royalty in those splendid habiliments and those alone; you will have masters of etiquette regulating a "delightfully exclusive" reception in the Court of Ottawa, while rowdiness reigns in the legislative halls. An Englishman at a ball given by the Governor of an Australian colony trod on a court lady's magnificent train; the aristocratic dame turned sharply round and gave him a broadside of Seven Dials.

It has been already admitted that owing principally to the late growth of commercial wealth in England a back stream is running there in favour of social titles. The main current, however, manifestly sets the other way. It is quite understood now that none of the leaders of intellect will take a title or could do it without exposing themselves to ridicule and real loss of position. If the same thing cannot be said of all leaders of commerce of the nobler stamp, it must be remembered that these men not only have baronetcies constantly pressed upon them by the policy of the aristocracy, seconded often by the influence of their wives, but are frequently placed in situations as mayors of cities or entertainers of royalty, in which it is hardly possible without positive offence to refuse the proffered title. Still it was generally felt that Titus Salt had lowered, not raised, himself by his acceptance of a baronetcy. A peerage confers not only social rank but a seat in the Upper House of Parliament, and it is accepted on the political ground by men who would not accept it on the social ground, and who do all they can to show you that they do not wish to assume an artificial rank. Brougham continued to sign himself "Henry Brougham"; and he, Macaulay and other peers of intellect have retained their own names and refused the mock territorial title which vulgar vanity specially affects. Sir Robert Peel, though he had led the aristocratic party all his life, not only declined a peerage himself but by his will expressly enjoined his son not to take one for any services which he himself had rendered. Nobody blames an ordinary man for accepting or even coveting the current prizes of his time, whatever they may be. Nobody blames an ordinary Frenchman of the period of Louis XIV. for eagerly seeking the honour of lighting the great King to bed, of handing him his shirt or his towel. Nobody blames an ordinary Siamese for wanting to have the privilege of attending the white elephant. But these are not the leading shoots of humanity.

The fruits of the recent policy in Canada can hardly be more satisfactory to its authors than the fruits of the same policy elsewhere. The Princess and her husband have been as well received as possible by Canadians of all classes, parties and opinions. They have been the objects not merely of that natural and blameless curiosity which is inspired by the coming of any personage of mark, but of the most cordial good feeling and the warmest hospitality. In this point of view the appointment has been a perfect success. But the attempt to introduce etiquette into the colony has decidedly miscarried. Nor has the attempt to inoculate us with the colonial form of aristocracy by the recent creation of a great batch of knights had much better success. There has been a good deal of popular levity on the occasion, and no feeling of interest so far as we have seen more intense or homefelt than that which might be excited by any curious social occurrence, or even by the arrival of a new show. We see that, in the *Globe*, Mr. Cartwright's house has become Sir Richard Cartwright's "seat," but we have observed no other symptom of

exaltation. There appear to have been some refusals on the part of men whose special business it is to study the currents of public opinion. In one quarter there seems to have been a still more significant struggle, which led—for the first time perhaps in an official history—to the contradiction of an announcement in the *London Gazette*. Pitt intended to give Canada an hereditary peerage as well as an order of knights; but the Upas Tree was never planted and the shrub seems unlikely to take root. Canada apparently has rejected social rank, and prefers the spontaneous recognition of social merit.—*Rose-Belford's Canadian Monthly*.

THE N. P. HAVING FAILED—HOW NOW?

A GLIMPSE OF JULY 1, 1881.

No brighter page will ever be written in history, marking the progress of intelligence and civilization, than the record of the friendly and peaceful severance between Great Britain and Canada which to-day has been so happily consummated. The transaction can only find its counterpart in domestic life, when a long cherished daughter, becoming of age, severs the tie of home and name, but retains all the affection and respect due to a kind and tender parent.

The history of the last two years are too fresh in our memories to refer to here. The N. P. was an *ultima thule*, and the most its best friends claimed for it was, that it would keep "Canada for Canadians,"—a poor legacy for an enterprising people, with a depleted treasury, accumulating debt, and diminishing population. After exhausting every possible device to restore prosperity, the march of events, and conflict of commercial interests, forced a crisis which could no longer be postponed.

It is certainly a marvellous episode in our country's history, and it is hard to know which most to commend, the magnanimous conduct of grand old England, or the struggle between interest and affection, which the people of Canada have evinced in assuming the responsibilities of an independent nation. The alternative of annexation to the United States met with comparatively little sympathy, even if it could have been accomplished; but happily the strong and decided opposition of the Midland and Southern States relieved our people from the choice, and I think the results of our present position will prove a better incentive to maintain a creditable affinity with the good old land of our forefathers.

We have just read the admirable message of Canada's first President, Sir John A. Macdonald, whose long and faithful services have met their reward, and it is hoped nothing will disturb the well-earned honours which he wears with so much dignity; and that his term of office may be worthy of his high *prestige*. The hearty plaudits which greeted the names of his Ministry evince the general approval.

The absence of old party lines, and the universally expressed wish for the country's prosperity, promises most happily.

Apart from the offices of President and Vice-President being made elective every eight years—the termination of appeal to England—and the organization of a Consular service—there is nothing to disturb the ordinary working of the old machinery. Our commercial relations with the United States are all that we can desire. Through an assimilation of seaboard tariffs, and removal of frontier Custom-houses, we have the fullest reciprocity, untrammelled by any restriction. With a boundless field for the energies and enterprise of our people, we have now the spur to an honourable competition, which must tend to the development of every latent capacity. We have abundance of idle water-power and labour, and if we fail in the contest, we will come short of our destiny, and deserve to.

There is to be no standing army or navy. It is hoped through a happy assimilation of interests our battles will be all commercial. We will have nothing to quarrel about. Meanwhile, the proper encouragement of Volunteers, and a Mounted Government Police at exposed points, will be all that is necessary for years to come. If an emergency does arise, the proper nurturing of the Military College at Kingston will provide ample material for a military organization.

Our Fisheries are now open to our neighbours, and no cause can arise for differences; already immense additions have taken place to the population on our coasts; the erection of fishing depots, and their accompanying industries; curing and canning establishments have made great headway; ship-building has also taken a start at its old haunts,—all of which will demand and maintain a large population, carrying sure prosperity in its train. The Ottawa Valley resounds with new life, barges and propellers are multiplying and preparing for the carrying trade, which has hitherto been denied us, and the grain receipts from the Western States have increased so much as to revive the almost lost hope of the utility of our enlarged Canal system. Already our Ocean tonnage has doubled; a new line of steamers has been established direct to France, and opened a trade hitherto unknown to us; orders for horses, and cattle, cheese, &c., are now being filled.

Space would fail to particularize all the fruitful branches of industry starting up like magic everywhere. Our monetary system has wonderfully improved;