

THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF THE CANADIAN DOMINION

BY GOLDWIN SMITH.

On the first of July last the Dominion of Canada entered on the second decade of its existence. A natural opportunity is thus presented for reviewing its brief history, and the success of its effort to solve the political problems to the pressure of which it owed its origin. Such a review will be found to be not without interest to the student of political science, especially in England, for Canada exhibits the British Constitution under a peculiar set of circumstances, by which its operation is modified in a way that is at once interesting and important. Even before the formation of the Dominion the Canadian colonies had excited interest among British statesmen by successfully grappling with some problems, like that of a State Church, which formed a burden rather than an advantage of the inheritance received from the mother country; but since the confederation of the colonies, ten years ago, their politi-

cal transactions have risen in imperial significance. The neighborhood of Canada to the United States, and the intimate commercial and social relations which that neighborhood entails, have already brought, and must continue to bring, the affairs of the Dominion before the Imperial Government in a way that is sometimes more important than pleasant; while, among themselves, the Canadians are now facing the storm and stress of conflicts which, even in the varied political history of England, have not been completely fought out, and may therefore be forced upon her yet.

It may not be unnecessary to remind some readers that, previously to 1867, the British American provinces stood to each other practically in the relation of foreign countries. Governed by wholly independent legislatures, separated by dissimilar tariffs, they were united only by the unobtrusive bond of a common

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