

## AN OLD WOMAN'S REVERIE.

When slowly in the crimson west  
The evening shadows gently fall,  
And twilight hour—the one lov'd best—  
Comes stealing softly o'er us all,  
I love in easy chair to sit  
And muse when quietly I knit.

I dream of years when I was young,  
And lovers blinted I was fair,  
And of my eyes in rapture sung,  
Or praised my silky nut-brown hair.  
'Twas long ago—yet here I sit  
Before the fire, and calmly knit.

Alas! those locks are scant and gray,  
The eyes have lost their witching light  
The lips that praised have pined away,  
And over all has fallen the blight  
Of time—and here alone I sit  
Before the fire, and sadly knit

I think of those who've gone before—  
The dear ones I so fondly loved—  
And yielding to the magic power  
Of memories all too deeply moved,  
I softly weep, as I here sit  
Before the fire to dream and knit.

And soon I too shall pass away,  
And one who now is young and fair,  
Will often sit at close of day,  
As twilight shadows gathers near,  
And tell how mother used to sit  
In the old easy chair and knit.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the *Daily Standard*, dated at Victoria, Vancouver's Island May 3rd, from our talented and gallant friend, Lieut. Colonel Wainwright Griffiths, whose admirable letter will be found below.

A few intelligent Canadians like the gallant Colonel would be a very desirable addition to the population on the Pacific Slope, as they would disseminate a proper knowledge of this country, its resources, products and physical and political development.

The *Standard* is a respectably sized daily with a fair sprinkling of general and local news:

## NATIONAL DIFFICULTIES.

VICTORIA, 1st May, 1872.

EDITOR STANDARD.—It is not without some diffidence that within a week of my arrival in this fine Province of the Dominion, I venture to obtrude a few remarks, bearing on the future of our common nationality—Canada. I have been principally instigated to do so by the interest with which I read the editorial articles in recent issues of the *STANDARD*. One, on the subject of the "Independence of Canada," brings us face to face with the situation to which it is futile to persist in so imbecile blindness. It is impossible to misinterpret the result of the tendency of parliamentary opinion in England, as is justly observed in your able article, if colonies mean expense the national policy will become anti-colonial. A strong conservative Government might retard the progress of this tendency, but it is to be doubted if, in the present temper of the nation, there be any chance of such a change. That England is pursuing a *line of policy* which will eventuate to her in dishonor and contempt, and that when she has succeeded in denuding herself of her colonies, she will sink to the level of a third class power, I make no more doubt than I do of a future state. But the end is not yet—It is unlikely that trouble will arise out of the Alabama claims; and that matter once settled, it is difficult to imagine any other probable cause of dispute between England and the States. Canada providing for herself a military force adequate to any possible requirement short of war with the States, will cost

the mother country nothing, and as long as that is the case there will be no anxiety at home to hasten the separation. On our side the connection is clung to with a loyal affection which will certainly avoid precipitating of matters. It is therefore a gratuitous search for trouble to beg the question of Independence before any necessity whatever arises for its consideration. It is quite possible that it may be many years before any such necessity does arise. The longer the interval, the better for the Dominion, and if that interval be well employed I am inclined to think that Canada need entertain no fears as to our future independence, the growth of a patriotic pride, and of a belief that the broad domain of Canada, extending from ocean to ocean, contains territory and resources to make a great nation, has been for the last five years at least rapid and vigorous. The people of Ontario and the more eastern provinces, living in close observation of the institutions, customs and manners of the States, find no attraction in republican institutions, but on the contrary are strongly repelled from them in favor of our own, so superior, constitution, which they perceive to afford the fullest extent of republican liberty without the corruption and periodical turmoil attending the working of that of the United States,

The central portion of Manitoba in process of rapid settlement by Ontario men, cannot fail to be strongly imbued with the same sentiments, and even were we shunted into independence to-morrow it is questionable if the States government would consider it advantageous to attempt the coercion of an unwilling people. It is common certainly, to imagine that the United States are rulers more by popular sentiment than by the actual governing power; but were that as much the case as is popularly supposed, it is probable that Mexico, a state far weaker than Canada ought to be in five years time (or indeed is now) would ere this have been annexed. There is also an opinion gaining ground amongst thinking Americans, the existence of Canada along the northern border of the States, would keep their territory compact, and would be advantageous in many ways, but the amount of respect which Canada independent would command, will much depend on the proper use of the interval which may elapse before her independence becomes a *fait accompli*. It depends largely upon population. The hopeful, sanguine, progressive and patriotic Canadian of to-day, bears bitterly impressed upon his memory poor "Maud Muller's" aching thought "what might have been!" What might have been as to territory if British diplomatists had been less easily mesmerized into a fool's paradise by astute American statesmen! What might have been if both the Imperial and Colonial Governments had done a tithe of their duty as to immigration during the last thirty-years? He knows that had our rulers in times past been half as energetic in proclaiming the advantages of Canada, as those of the United States have been in publishing those of their country, we might at this day have been a nation of ten million instead of one of four. But it is not yet too late. The previous governments of the provinces are aroused to the importance of receiving our fair share of the immigration, and this is one of the cardinal points which the earnest Canadian should continually bear in mind, and unceasingly advocate. How many English immigrants might be brought under the old flag, even from under the very stars and stripes, out of the very jaws of Uncle Sam, if our provinces were ably represented there

by energetic and popular men? I myself saw instances in San Francisco during a brief stay of three or four days, where infinite good might have been done by an accredited agent of the Government of this Province, and I also met a gentleman, a former member of the British Legislature, who was precisely the man for the work. Any sum expended in the payment of good agents would return its value a thousand fold to a young colony in very few years.

But it is absurd to suppose that the neighboring republic, will cease to secure the lion's share, while even in our own Canadian railroad stations the advantages of settlement in the United States are flaunted in the eyes of the immigrants from a dozen placards flaming in all the colors of the rainbow, while some despicable piece of whitey brown paper, stuck in an obscure corner, merely sets forth, in rusty ink and bad type the doubtful capabilities of the "Muskoka District," or some equally hyperborean asylum.

But, as I said before, it is not too late. We are awakening to all this, and the next five years ought to see our population increased by half its present amount. Immigration, therefore, and the speedy construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway are the two things that will make us a nation, and on neither point do we now find reason to despond. At this critical hour of our nascent history let us thank providence that we are ruled by statesmen. There can be no fear that the minds which conceived the birth of a new nation by the grand measure of Confederation, will be blind to the vital need of the iron cord which is required to bind together the extremes of the territory. Without the railroad, Confederation would not be worth the paper which the terms are written on, with it a great nation is consolidated. It is a matter of surprise, that people have been found timid and shortsighted enough to doubt the determination of the government in the matter. Those who do so scarcely appreciate the astuteness of Sir John and his other colleagues, or the British feeling, the high courage and the pertinacity of Sir George. Depend upon it, the men who have created a mighty state and nearly solved the problem of an armed nation as against a large standing force are not the men to stultify their own work, by neglecting the corner stones of the edifice.

The encouragement to those "of little faith" which your columns of a day or two ago administer in this case is therefore very satisfactory. And let us further recall to mind other encouraging circumstances. It is something to have before us the examples of the Union and Central Pacific Railroads of the United States themselves not built without strong opposition, and much scepticism. It is something to know that our own line will be both shorter and easier of grade. And it seems absolutely providential that recent troubles should have raised Fort Garry, a natural half way house, into wealth and importance.

Opposition is, of course, to be expected, but it is perhaps fortunate that the present opposition in the Dominion House of Commons is known to be factious. It is patent to all thinking Canadians that, having no party cry, but the (at present) meaning less one of "reform," the Grits, a name suitable in vulgarity and ugliness to the tactics of the party it designates—if they could succeed in ousting the present Dominion Government, would be only too glad to pursue the policy inaugurated by their predecessors. Ample evidence of this may be