

protest against being incorporated into a foreign State, and a manifestation of their determination to resist unto death any attempt at forcible incorporation. And assuredly it would be a nobler destiny for the British American Provinces to be a nation among themselves, able to fight their own battles, and maintain their own independence, than to be annexed as members to a Union, which, professing to be based on the sovereignty of its several States, and to be the guardian of personal freedom, has, according to the invariable custom of all democracies, destroyed liberty, suspended the *Habeas Corpus* in spite of the sovereignty of the States, and has so entirely trampled personal freedom under foot, as to march bands of unwilling conscripts bound in chains to serve in a war they loathe, having for its object the coercing of other Sovereign and independent States into a Union which they hate. Or should the Provinces not be dragged unwillingly into union with the States, assuredly it would be a nobler destiny for them to become a nation than to remain forever colonies, leaning upon the power of England for protection; or to hold an ignoble position as separate States, owing a quasi-independence to the scornful forbearance of their more powerful neighbours, and

“With bated breath, and whispering humbleness,”

begging permission to regulate their internal affairs with some degree of reference to their own wishes. The late Union, when entire, did certainly possess some advantages, (great ones too) which might reasonably have been taken into consideration, especially by the people of Canada, when the subject of their future condition occupied their thoughts, but now that the Union is shivered, and about to be permanently split into several fragments, and in danger of bankruptcy, it would be as foolish on financial grounds, as degrading for moral reasons, to seek to be united to any one of the bits of the late Union, that might happen to appear the least unworthy of the connection. The provinces cannot forever remain dependent upon the mother country. The events now passing in America proclaim in unmistakable terms that old things are passing away, and that they must enter into new relations with the rest of the world and themselves. As separate States, they would be too weak to defend their independence; and consequently there is only the alternative of union or annexation. Canada, British America, cannot be content to be ever an outlying dependency, either of England or the States. They must, or their people are not men, aspire to the rank and dignity of a free people, the independence of a nation. They must, therefore, unite among themselves, since it is only by union they can escape the disgrace of annexation. The great chain of lakes is Nature's testimony, that different nations shall dwell on their shores, nations that may be firm friends