

Certainly the adventures detailed in 'Con Cregan,'—with which his historian credits him,—could never have happened to him. Moreover, he is stated to have been in Germany during the same year as that allotted for his Canadian experiences. No doubt Lever crossed the Atlantic, and spent a short time in Canada and the United States, but about the Indian adventures—*Credat* Indians.

CANADA'S DESTINIES.

—IF it were not for John Bull's strong aversion to the consideration of all troublesome questions one moment before they are forced upon him, and for the conventional type of 'loyalty' imposed by a partisan press on the people of Canada, the question of Canada's political future would be one of the burning issues of the day. There is nothing lacking to make the present connection between Canada and the Mother Country one of the absurdest, and yet one of the most embarrassing of political 'survivals.' It is no longer an organic tie, but simply an antiquated constitutional form, out of which all virtue has long since vanished. Everyone sees this, except those who are too indolent or too obstinate to see it. But such is the terrorism exerted by the party press that people dare not speak what they think. In this case, as in a thousand others, each party is watching the other in the hope of being able to turn against it whatever odium may attach to the striking out of a new line of policy. If the Liberals showed the faintest disposition to make Canada's relation to the Mother Country a matter for free discussion, *in the interest of Canada*, the Tories would instantly rouse against them all the forces of prejudice and hypocrisy throughout the country, and no doubt would succeed in making a powerful stir. And precisely the same would happen if the Conservatives made the first move. Our brave Liberals would raise a frantic cry about

'loyalty,' as if the loyalty of a Canadian were not due in the first place to Canada. And we call ourselves a free people, while we have to go into nooks and corners, in order to confide to our friends what we think respecting the paramount interests of our country. Surely it is time this folly ceased. Party government may be a fine thing, 'distinctly precious, blessed, subtle, significant and supreme,' as the art-critic said lately in *Punch*; but if the Grit party and the Tory party are to be the upper and nether mill-stones which, between them, are to crush out free speech and free thought in all matters of fundamental importance, then are we paying too dearly for the party system.

What every one knows is that Canada's position is at present most unsatisfactory; that it is embarrassing to the Mother Country, and that, under it, Canadian interests are everywhere at a disadvantage. We have no national feeling, no national sense of responsibility. We are interesting neither to ourselves nor to others. Englishmen care next to nothing for us, and the other nations of Europe care absolutely nothing; whereas 'American' civilisation is a matter of constant interest and study. We are growing visibly on the shady side of the wall, while our neighbours, owing to the simple fact that they are solving great political and social problems for themselves, and are independently maintaining their own prestige in the world, are enjoying no end of sunshine. If they had only our population, the eyes of Europe would still be turned to them and not to us. Who wants to know anything of a colony? Our British fellow-countrymen, when they cross the Atlantic, think the only thing worth stepping upon Canadian territory for is to see our side of Niagara Falls. Dickens, Thackeray, Huxley, Tyndall, Proctor, Froude—what did we see of any of these men in Canada. The attraction is all to the south of us; we are nothing. Would this be