

The achievements of a bygone generation, like the pride of ancestry, although for us but a reflected glory with a dash of moonshine about it, are valuable if they serve as incentives to exertion and stimulate us to strive at excelling the past, but if they are made use of as a shelter for an evasion of responsibilities and to disguise a humiliation, they become prejudicial and pernicious in their influences.

This is not a time for patriotic Canadians to indulge in a rehearsal of the fable of the frog and the ox—for the American ox can stand it better than the Canadian frog. It is far more necessary to give prominence to the disagreeable facts of the past decade which vitally affect the present than to indulge in vain glorying at the development of 30 years ago, the credit of which belongs to a former generation.

The last census, some of the figures of which I have given, is evidence of the remarkably non-progressive condition of the two provinces which together form the backbone of the Dominion, so far as regards population.

It seems almost a self-evident proposition needing no argument, that without people a new country cannot be developed. If the Dominion is ever to become anything great it has to retain its own population and to attract a large immigration. In neither condition has the Dominion so far been successful. As concerns failing to retain its own, the United States census for 1870, shows us that British North America stands fourth in the list of countries from which the United States draws its population. The native born British North Americans in the United States number 493,362, and are nearly as numerous as native born Englishmen.

Referring to the valuable "Special report on immigration" published at Washington, 1872, we find that between 1850 and 1860 the British North American immigrants into the United States annually, varied from 352 to 7,796; and between 1860 and 1870, from 2,069 to 53,340. As the figures are instructive, they may as well be given for the last decade.

1861,	2,069,	Before Confederation.
1862,	3,275,	" "
1863,	3,464,	" "
1864,	3,636,	" "
1865,	21,586,	" "
1866,	32,150,	Last session of Canadian Parliament.
1867,	6,014,	Dominion Government.
1868,	10,894,	" "
1869,	30,921,	" "
1870,	53,340,	" "