

CANADA AND IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

BY CHAS. E. KNAPP.

The August number of the *LAKE* had as its initial article a well written contribution on "Canada and Imperial Federation." Although I think the article irreproachable in style, it seems to me to be based on erroneous premises, and more commendable for its rhetoric than its logic. "Independence" the writer says is "a dangerous dream," and yet two of the ablest politicians in Canada have had such a dream. The Hon. J. A. Chapleau in his celebrated election speech at Terre Bonne said: "In remaining colonists we only retain the prestige and benefit of the powerful protectorate of England, that the great work of gradual emancipation was going on, that the natural march of events would bring about independence." Later Sir John Thompson said: "He could not agree with any terms that would compromise the future independence of Canada." Mr. Hopkins declares that "Annexation is a disgraceful impossibility," and that either "Independence" or "Annexation without due cause is dishonorable as well as difficult, and we may be assured that the mother country will never give us sufficient reason to take either step." While I agree with Mr. Hopkins that "Independence would be dangerous," I am not at one with him when he says, "annexation would be a disgraceful impossibility." I rather choose to agree with some of England's greatest statesmen and best writers, and in confirmation will quote from a few of the very many among them who have discussed the future of Canada in the British House of Lords, on the floor of the British Parliament and in British newspapers and reviews.

Robert Lowe said: "It is idle to conceal from ourselves, that this union of Britain with Canada is in its nature tem-

porary and precarious, and may and probably will be put an end to without misconduct on either side." Lord Blatchford: "There is a period in the life of distant nations, however close their original connection, at which each must pursue her own course, whether in domestic or foreign affairs unembarrassed by the others leading. The arrival of that period depends upon growth. Every increase of colonial wealth or numbers or intelligence or organization is a step towards disintegration. The confederation of the Canadas was such a step." Mr. Huskinson, when Colonial Secretary: "He thought the time had come for separation of Canada from the mother country, and her assumption of an independent state." Lord Howick: "We ought to prepare for separation." Richard Cobden: "There will be no repetition of the policy of 1776, on our part to prevent the North American colonies from pursuing their interest in their own way." Ellenborough: "He hoped the government would communicate with the North American colonies with a view to their separation." Brougham: "He was one of those who desired the separation of Canada from the mother country. The idea was not new, it had been entertained by many eminent men. It was shared in by Lord St. Vincent and Lord Ashburton." Derby: "We know that the British North American colonies must before long become independent states." The Hon. Joseph Howe said he heard a noble Marquis say: "Those British Americans may go and set up for themselves, they may annex themselves to the United States if they please, and no power will be used to prevent them." Lord Monk, the first Governor General of Canada after his return home in his place