

Of course it may be replied that no restriction exists with respect to flags which may be hoisted on shore, but I submit that *THE FLAG IS ONE WHICH HAS COME TO BE CONSIDERED AS THE RECOGNIZED FLAG OF THE DOMINION, BOTH ASHORE AND AFLOAT*, and on sentimental grounds I think there is much to be said for its retention, as it expresses at once the unity of the several provinces of the Dominion and the identity of their flag with the colors hoisted by the ships of the mother-country."

These being, for Mr. Pope, extremely unpleasant facts, he must be excused for declining to recognize them or even allude to them. And probably, if he must write upon the subject at all, he takes the proper and only available course in repeating, in excellent phraseology, the somewhat etiolated warnings against tendencies "to cut loose from old-established moorings; against "this iconoclastic spirit"; against the abolition of "ancient and venerable" institutions; against the "brand new"—upon the ground that we have "foolish hearts and fastidious intellects."

No fault must be found with such appeals. They indicate a temperament and a caste of mind, which would, indeed, have kept Canada and the world in the twin-thraldoms of ignorance and autocracies; but every age has had many men of that sort—every age has had to struggle against them, and to overcome them.

For the Union Jack, and for what has been accomplished by the great nation whose symbol it is, I have the greatest respect and the highest admiration. If I do not burst into exaggerated panegyrics and religious perorations over it, it is not because I do not appreciate all that it has done in the world, but because I dislike spread-lionism nearly as much as both Mr. Pope and I dislike spread-eagleism.

But the Union Jack, in its simple form, cannot be the flag of Canada. If we should ever arrange a political union with the United Kingdom, the jack which with its one original cross said England, with its subsequent two crosses said England and Scotland, and with its present three crosses says England, Scotland and Ireland, would require still another adaptation.

As Mr. Pope says, "a flag is the symbol of sovereignty"; and so long, therefore, as Canada recognizes complete subordination, the flag of the nation to which she is subordinate is her proper flag.

But Canada has asserted and has attained to almost complete self-government—that is to almost complete independence. And when subordination ceases, the symbol of it becomes inappropriate. That is why Sir John A. Macdonald's government, fifteen years ago

"encouraged by precept and example the use on all public buildings throughout the provinces of the red ensign with the Canadian badge in the fly."