

or less than the natural anxiety which all Canadians naturally have as to their future. I thank my hon. friend from Bellechasse (Mr. Amyot) who has spoken for the race to which he and I belong, for the way in which he has alluded to the French Canadians. He has alluded to the fact that in the first year of Her Majesty's reign our compatriots rose in rebellion against the Crown; but I repeat what he stated, that the fair and generous treatment which we have ever since received, and which I hope we will ever receive in the future, has converted that sentiment of bitterness into a sentiment of devotion to the British Crown. My hon. friend, however, said that our aim was to create a great nation on this side of the ocean. Well, if this is our aim, as it is, to create a great nation on this side of the ocean, based, as I hope, on British institutions, this brings us to the fact that our connexion with Great Britain cannot remain for ever what it is at the present day. As long as our powers of self-government, which we now enjoy, are adequate to our national requirements, for my part I endorse every word which is contained in this address, but—I speak with all candour—I do not expect that Canada will remain for ever a colony. There is no necessity to enter into this question at present. Now our citizenship is adequate to our requirements, but I think our condition might be improved and this might be the subject of further discussion. I cannot lose sight of the fact that at present there is a movement in favour of Imperial federation. That movement implies that our present relations with Great Britain might be improved. It does not follow that our relations with Great Britain are deemed unsatisfactory, but simply that they might be improved. I agree with the sentiment that our relations with Great Britain may be improved, whether in the way indicated or in any other way, but, whatever may be the future relations of this country to Great Britain, as long as we remain as we are to-day, with the great measure of liberty which we have received from Great Britain, we are quite happy to express our feeling of attachment to the Crown of England and to the person of Her Majesty.

*Mr. Mitchell:* It may not be inopportune for me to make a few remarks on such a proposition as this. I endorse every sentiment which has been uttered by the mover of the resolution (Mr. Mulock), and I listened with pleasure to the repetition of the history of the loyalty of our French fellow-subjects to the Throne of England. I may say that I looked upon it with a little suspicion when it was first introduced, because I thought it might imply some antagonism to our neighbours and kinsmen on the south of the line, but I think that the present resolution will not be looked upon as in any way antagonistic to them. I believe it is the interest of this country to maintain the most friendly relations with the people of the United States, and, as I understand the statement of the mover of the resolution, he was induced to take this step mainly in order to correct the impressions which our friends on the south of the line might have obtained from statements made to them, or from the press, as to the sentiments or the loyalty of the people of Canada. I have been pleased to hear the expressions from both sides of the House in reference to our loyalty to the Throne and Constitution of England. I am as loyal as any man in this country. I am no annexationist. I am no advocate for independence. But, as my hon. friend, the leader of the second-rate party in this House—because I recognise three parties, and, perhaps, for all I can tell, there may be four parties—has stated, I recognise that Canada cannot and will not always remain a colony; but I am willing to abide the tide of events. We have made a success as a colony. We have had prosperity; perhaps not always as great as many might desire. We have had just laws; perhaps not always executed as justly as some of us might expect. But we have had peace and prosperity in this land; we have under the ægis and protection of the greatest nation in the world, attained to a position which, notwithstanding what certain statesmen in England some 15 or 20 years ago may have said as to the weakness of Canada, prevents anyone now from denying that we are a source of strength to the home country, and must be so as long as we remain in connexion with her. Long may it be before that connexion is severed; but, I may say, that it cannot remain in harmony and with satisfaction to the people of Canada if the interests of Canada are neglected or overlooked. I make this one observation not to raise any discussion on a motion of this kind—for I would deprecate that—but simply to tell the right hon. gentleman at the head of the Government, that it is his duty and that of his Government, when they are sending this address to Her Majesty, to inform her Ministers that there are some people at all events, in this Parliament of Canada who think that the interests of Canada have for some time past not been receiving that attention and protection to which they are entitled. I will not particularise now this question to which I allude. Everyone here understands to what I refer. I only hope that the Government, in sending this address to