

bar their entrance to all the privileges and honours open to their fellow subjects in England. Such then being the fact, what direction will the development of Canadian national feeling take in its onward course, for onward it must move !

Certain parties were, or pretended to be, seized with the belief that Canadianism would necessarily and inevitably lead to Independence, and that this would be only a stepping-stone to Annexation to the United States. Others hold that independence, instead of leading to annexation, will be the most certain means of once and forever settling the question against the possibility of annexation. But a large number, which is constantly increasing, entertain the strongest conviction that the development will be toward an Imperial Confederation. It is right, however, here to state that it formed no part in the considerations of the originators of the Canadian Association to mark out the line in which Canadian feeling should march. On their part there was simply a declaration of individual existence as a nation—a throwing off of the swaddling clothes as a colony. The destiny of the Dominion was considered in one respect only, namely, that it should never become annexed to the United States. At least, this was the aim of the great majority of the promoters of Canadianism. It cannot be denied that certain circumstances gave reason for a public belief that independence was to be the aim of the movement, with a view to ultimate annexation. The unfortunate use of the motto *Canada First*, and the more unfortunate declamation against British institutions and honours, at a public meeting, had a disastrous effect upon the movement while it was in an incipient stage. But nevertheless, the principles aroused by the Association as