

of our own manufactures against all other countries, Britain included, was a distinct declaration of commercial independence, that has been reaffirmed again and again by the people of Canada. The outburst of patriotic feeling, when the recent rebellion broke out in the Northwest, was still more significant. Though the French Canadians identified the cause of the rebels with their own nationality, or rather with the upholding of French influence in the Territories, regiments of Quebec militia marched to put the rebellion down. And patriotic feeling was not deeper in Ontario than it was in Nova Scotia, where various causes had combined to make Confederation unpopular. For twenty years, the Canadians have continued their resolute effort to accomplish complete national, political, commercial and national unity, in spite of the geographical and other difficulties in the way, that might well have appalled them. The present calm determination to protect our fisheries, and to waive no jot of our rights, although all our interests and feelings lie in the direction of unfettered commercial intercourse, and the preservation of friendly feelings with the United States, is another proof that we have become one people. The fisheries along the maritime shores do not directly concern Ontario; but the feeling there against surrender to anything like encroachment is as decided as in Nova Scotia. The symptoms of restlessness, on account of our position being merely colonial, and the discussion of plans, whereby we may emerge into a position of recognized nationality and stable political equilibrium, also shows that we are nearing that point in our history when we must assume the full responsibilities of nationhood, or abandon the experiment altogether.