

flowing from her connection with them in the past, advantages which must be infinitely multiplied in the future, will assuredly take second rank among the great powers of the world. This is one side of the shield, what does the reverse present? In the past with all her faults, no nation with power so vast has been actuated by such a desire to use it beneficially; in the future, as remarked by Mr. Cowen, a life-long radical, in a speech recently delivered at Newcastle, to secure the existence and rivet the cohesion of her vast domain, blessed as it is with the highest form of freedom the world has ever seen, and to carry, to distant countries and to succeeding ages, the loftiest idea of civilization, is Britannia's mission. Before passing to the military aspect of the question, it will be in place to touch upon a few points which should render the scheme of peculiar interest to Canadians, and which have been so clearly brought forward by Mr. G. C. Cunningham, in the March number of *THE MONTHLY*, on 'Federation, Annexation, and Independence.' In common with other leading colonies, Canada cannot much longer satisfactorily maintain her present relations with the mother country, relations in which she is liable to all the disagreeable consequences of a war into which England may be drawn, and which Canada is powerless to avert. She has no authority to enter into a treaty with a foreign country regarding her most vital interests without the sanction of England, and is unable to confer rights of citizenship upon her people, such as will be respected, or would avail abroad. Undoubtedly, the last named disability has ever been a most potent factor in the hands of American emigration agents to divert the stream of European emigration to the United States. A large proportion of those who emigrate do so to escape the grinding military service to which they are liable, and how can they be expected to give the preference to a country, which,

however desirable in other respects, is helpless to protect them from enforced military service, during a transient visit, perchance, to their native land. In view of these, among other circumstances, it is not assuming too much to assert that a change must soon come about. In the case of Australia and New Zealand, the choice lies between federation and independence: a third course, that of annexation to the United States of America, lies open to Canada; and the contemplation of such a destiny will, if I mistake not, be found a most powerful factor, in deciding the people of the Dominion to cast in their lot with the mother country, and the sister colonies in the scheme of confederation; for it is pretty generally conceded that independence must result in annexation, a conviction endorsed by one who is no friend of British connection, but whose ability as a writer and thinker commands respect for all his utterances. Apart from the greater material advantages which a scheme of confederation, as contrasted with annexation, possesses for Canadians, and distinct from the deep-seated prejudice entertained against American institutions, whose flaws are becoming daily more apparent, the writer above referred to, in casting the political horoscope of Canada, cannot, from his very cosmopolitanism, enter into or comprehend that spirit, call it sentimentality if you will, which actuated our United Empire Loyalist forefathers to sacrifice their all for British connection, a spirit reproduced in 1866 in some of their descendants, prompting them to throw up their prospects in the United States and to return and bear arms in their country's cause, in what they considered the hour of her need;—a spirit at the present time widely diffused throughout the land. The expression, '*Britannicus sum*' will possess for Canadians a meaning such as '*Romanus sum*' never conveyed to a citizen of the Roman empire. However great the influence which a strong national