

nies, have, it is true, created a sentiment in favor of annexation nearly as pronounced as the Tory manifesto of 1849. This tendency has recently been quickened by the encroachments of the Roman Catholic Church, and its evident hold upon legislation, as evinced in large grants of public money to Jesuits in Quebec, which were afterwards confirmed by a preponderating vote of the Dominion Parliament. It is true that this growth of the annexation sentiment is denied by super-loyalists, and subsidized supporters of the present administration, and its existence for any present political purpose is ignored. Yet it is claimed by some observers that, if a secret ballot were taken in Canada to-day on the question, a vast number of the voters would be found to favor a political union. But the fact that a *secret* ballot would have to be taken in order to evoke any pronounced opinion in its behalf, is the significant circumstance by which the force of the movement is to be judged. No man, however favorable he may be to a political union between the two countries, and with a perfect knowledge of the conditions that prevail, can believe that such a revolution in public sentiment is possible as would elect, within a period of twenty years, a Parliament whose main plank should be annexation to the United States. True, now and then there are indications of a growing party in favor of political union; but their rarity and inconsequent character show that, while the sentiment may be a growing one, many years will pass before it is sufficiently effective to become a force in practical politics.

It must always be borne in mind that the great