



A QUIET CORNER ON MOUNT ROYAL.

Federation--Soon or Never.

In his article, "Canada and Imperial Federation," in the March number of the *Fortnightly Review*, Mr. J. W. Longley advocates Canadian independence. But he is not anxious for an early decision for or against it, although he terms it a "great injustice to the public spirit of the Canadian people to suppose that they will always be content to enjoy the benefits of British connection without sharing its burdens and responsibilities." He rightly thinks that the chances of gaining and maintaining independence will not be lessened by waiting. "The period has not yet been reached," he remarks, "when Canada shall feel strong enough to stand alone. This involves difficulties and responsibilities. Besides, the present generation contains many who are extremely, perhaps bigotedly, attached to Britain and British rule, and who would be unwilling to listen to any proposal involving separation." * * * But old generations are passing away and new generations are arising; and in proportion as the country develops in population, wealth and power, these ancient prejudices will disappear, and each day will see the spirit of national pride grow stronger. * * * The germ has been planted, and the idea is manifestly growing in the heart of young Canada.

Here Mr. Longley indirectly gives a most grave warning to those whose first aspiration is the coherence of our grand empire, and who decline to consider other alternatives while any hope of federation remains. To them "now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation." Goldwin Smith in his "Canada and the Canadian Question," alludes thus scornfully to those imperial federationists who think it too early to reveal their plan:—"They say it is not yet time for the disclosure. Not yet time, when the last strand of political connection is worn almost to the last thread, and when every day the sentiment opposed to centralization is implanting itself more deeply in colonial hearts! While we are bidden to wait patiently for the tide, the tide is running strongly the other way." This is the utterance of an opponent of federation, and is, I hope, a little pessimistic. But many of the most thoughtful friends of the movement feel the time has come to ask for a verdict for or against the principle (if not for or against a specific scheme) of imperial federation. Mr. Stead, in a recent number of the "Review of Reviews," observed that "time was of the essence of the contract." Judge Haliburton thought the establishment

of lines of steamers ushered in the era "when the treatment of adults should supersede that of children." Hon. Joseph Howe thought the epoch had arrived in 1866. His brochure on "The Organization of the Empire," which was published in that year in London, contains the following, among its many ringing sentences:—"If there are any communities of British origin anywhere who desire to enjoy all the privileges and immunities of the Queen's subjects without paying for and defending them, let us ascertain who and where they are—let us measure the proportions of political repudiation now, in a season of tranquility—when we have leisure to gauge the extent of the evil and to apply correctives, rather than wait till war finds us unprepared and leaning upon presumptions in which there is no reality." Mr. Blake evidently believes the time for federating the empire has gone by. He made a plea for federation in his Aurora speech in 1874, but has dropped the subject since. And in his late letter he prefaces his opinion that the future of Canada should be settled by deliberation and not by drift with these significant words, "while not disguising my view that events have already greatly narrowed our apparent range and impeded our apparent liberty of action."

Though not, I trust, already past, the time for attaining full national life in equal partnership with other members of the empire is certainly passing. Canada is becoming more and more the "be-all and end-all" for Canadians, as Australia is for Australians. Some advocates of imperial federation are unwilling to accept it unless it be linked with an imperial zollverein or some favourite fad of their own. Others pretend to favour it only to stave off annexation until Canada is strong enough for independence. If the chief dependencies of the empire are ever to vote that the majestic whole is of more importance even than its nearest and dearest part, and that the coherence of the whole requires a reciprocity of rights and obligations between its co-ordinate parts, the vote must be taken soon.

But for the dangers attending the half century or so that must elapse before the country is sufficiently rich and populous for a secure independence—dangers that imperil the supremacy which Providence seems to offer the Anglo-Saxon race for a beneficent end—the present verdict of Canada would doubtless be for the *status quo*, and its ultimate verdict for independence. To all of us who recognize these dangers it is gratifying to see so much discussion of the

future of Canada, so many practical protests against "the inglorious policy of drift." The symptoms are that this country is not going to cling blindly to its mother's skirts until it is shaken off with a rebuff—unless, indeed, the rebuff should come unexpectedly soon. Most thoughtful Canadians—and it now seems likely that the thoughtful minority may move the inert mass—are in sympathy with the stirring appeal of Professor Roberts:—

"But thou, my country, dream not thou!
Wake, and behold how night is done—
How on thy heart, and o'er thy brow,
Bursts the uprising sun!"

F. BLAKE CROFTON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Dominion Coat of Arms.

To the Editor of the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED:

SIR,—Without discussing the design for the new coat of arms for the Dominion, as submitted by Mr. Lighthall in your issue of the 28th, allow me to enter a protest against the motto he has selected, "True North." One of the great objections entered in immigration work is the idea that Canada is situated so far north as to be almost within the Arctic region, whereas, on the contrary, our latitude is the same as that of the most fertile districts of Europe. Such a motto as "True North" would do much to encourage the erroneous opinion prevailing in Europe, and would be especially inappropriate at a time when west of Lake Superior we are endeavouring to have the designation of "North West Territories" changed to that of "Western Territories."

Yours truly,

ACTON BURROWS.

WINNIPEG, March 31, 1891.

A POET WRITES: "I kissed her under the silent stars"—and ever so much more copy does he offer to supply us withal.

We can't accept it. But we can give him a word of advice. Don't kiss her under the silent stars next time, but under the silent nose. You'll find it better so. *Typical Times*.