

"the definite arrangement." Everyone feels it, everyone discusses it, even though without unanimity of view or power of definition.

The question has long been under private examination, and from time to time has made such claims upon public attention, and particularly during the last year or two, that at the present moment it seems universally admitted that the matter must be solved without long delay. In fact, even those who have a material interest in the present *status quo* have never dared to pretend that the existing conditions can be permanently maintained. From which it follows that some political change is universally acknowledged in Canada as inevitable. Opinions are divided only on the question, "Which is the way we must eventually tread towards our final goal?" Three roads are open before us: first, Imperial Federation, already spoken of, and in favor of which active mission-work is done in certain quarters; second, Independence, pure and simple, without those dreams of British protection which fit in with nothing, practically or theoretically; third, Annexation with the United States.

These different ways have been recognized and studied often and at length by most serious thinkers, but ever from the point of view and from the interest of our population at large, without particular attention, however, to the different elements of which it is composed. In this article I will endeavor, to the best of my ability, to serve as interpreter of what I believe to be the opinion of most of my compatriots, the French Canadians of the Province of Quebec, touching these three different ways of attaining their country's success; and end they cannot conceive of apart from their future welfare as a distinct nationality.

To look at the whole question seriously and to understand it thoroughly in all its peculiarities, it must first be set in its true light. And this is what I conceive to be its true light: French Canadians differ in some respects from other colonists, who have no other interest to consider than that of their adopted country. They are like the inhabitants of New England in the last century, who, finding themselves divided between two loyalties, that towards their mother-country and that towards themselves, naturally chose the latter. For the French Canadians the alternative is complicated, not only by difference of race and religion, but also by the instinctive feeling common to all conquered people. "Conquered people" is a term which I use here with hesitation, for I know it to be repugnant to the national susceptibilities of my French compatriots. Whenever