

INTRODUCTION.

BRITISH Diplomacy having forced the nation to face the unpleasant alternative of rejecting the Alabama Treaty, or of being reduced to a worse condition than a conquered people, any minor considerations connected with it affecting merely the welfare of the Canadians, must sink into insignificance. To the people of the New Dominion they will have a far deeper and more enduring interest, and may exercise no slight influence on the future of the New World. A few days after this article appeared in the *St. James' Magazine*, a report of a lecture delivered by a veteran statesman of British America, the Honourable Joseph Howe, Secretary of State for the Provinces, reached England, and excited a good deal of hostile criticism. It was assumed that he was suggesting new views of our national policy to the young men of the New Dominion that would be likely to create a spirit of discontent.

It is as well to remove any misapprehension on this point, for Mr. Howe has only given utterance to the very universal feeling of dissatisfaction that exists throughout British America. Mr. Marshall, in his interesting work, "The Canadian Dominion," thus refers to the same subject: "The time has not yet come when the Dominion may stand alone. The time need never come when the connexion with England should terminate. The Canadians have their dream of a united empire, with England at its head, and London as its metropolis. The sons of England in these colonies fret at the thought of English decadence, the signs of which they think they see in the indifference she manifests towards her colonial possessions. A wise policy, they believe, might con-