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All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

TO CANADIAN WRITERS.

PRIZE COMPETITION.

PRIZES of \$50, \$30, \$20 and \$10 will be given for the FOUR BEST SHORT STORIES by Canadian writers only on subjects distinctively Canadian, on the following conditions:—

- 1.—The MS. must not exceed six thousand words and must be written on one side of the paper only.
- 2.—It must be delivered at THE WEEK office, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto, not later than 1st November, 1890.
- 3.—Each competing story must bear on the top of the first page a motto and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked with the same motto and the words PRIZE STORY COMPETITION, and enclosing the name and address of the writer.
- 4.—All the MSS. sent in to become the property of THE WEEK.
- 5.—THE WEEK will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfilment of the conditions.

Owing to a generally expressed desire THE WEEK has decided to accept MSS. sent in for the Short Story Prize Competition whether typewritten or not.

"DURING the last fifteen months I have been in every province of the Dominion, and after inviting the frank interchange of opinion everywhere, I came to the conclusion that there is less thought of annexation now than at any time during the last forty years. The growing sentiment of Canadian nationality is quietly killing it out." So said Principal Grant in the course of his eloquent speech before the "National Club" of Toronto, on Monday evening. We believe it, and have more than once said substantially the same thing. Canadian sentiment is undoubtedly growing, notwithstanding the disadvantages at which it is placed by geographical and racial difficulties. We are glad that Principal Grant has taken occasion to emphasize the fact, because it is one which is often obscured, both at home and abroad, in the dust raised by the recriminations of political partisans. The very fact that the word "annexationist" is deemed the most effective one to hurl at a political opponent, when an epithet is wanted to do duty as an argument, is, in itself, a pretty good indication that there is practically no annexation sentiment in the country. The real questions in regard to our future, the only alternatives worth considering, are, as Principal Grant clearly perceives, whether we shall "separate from the Empire to form an independent state, or remain in the Empire, gradually evolving into a position of closer union and equality of constitutional privilege and

responsibility." And in either case it is the duty of Canadians to be "Canada-First" men. The believer in Canadian Independence and the believer in Imperial Federation can meet on that common ground. What is best for Canada, or, let us rather say, for Canadians, for in questions of nationality it should never be forgotten that the men and women are more than the country, is the main question for Canadians to consider, though they need not approach it in any narrow or utterly selfish spirit. Were we in a controversial mood we should indeed join issue with Dr. Grant in regard to the meaning of the two kinds of development. To his argument that "the policy of the former (the Federationist) preserves our historical continuity and promises peaceful development," while "that of the latter (the believer in ultimate independence) means a revolution to begin with and weakness forever afterwards," we should be disposed to reply that the real weakling is the man who is content to live on his father's reputation, or cling to his mother's apron strings, after he has attained his majority and should be resolutely making his own way in the world. It is because we believe that absolute self-reliance is what is needed to develop the higher qualities of national as of personal character, and because, greatly as we revere all that is noble in British institutions and traditions, we believe Canada to be destined, both by heredity and by environment, to develop a character and do a work in the world distinctively her own, that we prefer to have faith in her ability to take care of herself. And just here Principal Grant will permit us to ask whether it was quite in keeping with the lofty note on which his oration was pitched, to suggest that the Government of Great Britain might not "give up without a struggle" the military advantages it derives from its Canadian possessions. Implied threats are certainly not likely to be the most convincing arguments with which to persuade those whom he is pleased to call "separationists," but who may with perfect propriety choose the term he himself has suggested, and style themselves "Canada-First" men, to become Federationists. The correlative of compulsion is submission. The British nation, we confidently affirm, would be as slow to refuse Canada permission to depart in peace and friendship, as Canada would be swift to refuse to remain in allegiance or alliance against her will. And after all good-will is the only source of strength in such a union. Canada as a colony or a federated state against her will, were such a thing conceivable, would be a source of weakness rather than of strength to the Empire. Canada as an independent nation, bound to the Mother Land by indissoluble ties of gratitude, admiration and affection, would be a more valuable ally than a dozen reluctant and resentful colonies, held by constraint. Happily for Canada British Statesmen know this right well, and many of the foremost among them, we make bold to say, not only realize that the question of an Independent Canada is but a question of time, but approve Independence as the only destiny worthy of her great opportunities.

THE meetings of the Association for the Advancement of Women, now going on in Toronto, are likely to bring again to the front the vexed question of the aim and tendency of such societies. Is the status of women as women, in this Western World, such that the sex stand in special need of a society to promote their advancement? Do they really lie at present under any special disabilities or disadvantages demanding a philanthropic agitation for their removal? We are not so ready as many to put aside such questions with an impatient negative. We suppose there has never been a great reform movement of any kind which has not brought to the front many unreasonable enthusiasts. The canons of good taste are pretty sure to be violated whenever a large number of earnest people of all classes come together to promote some patriotic or philanthropic purpose. The practical question to be asked in connection with all such movements is: What is their general effect and tendency? Have the various societies for the advancement of women wrought any real deliverance for the sex? That the position of women has been materially improved in various respects within the last twenty or thirty years few will care to deny. Those who admit that the various changes which have been

wrought in the direction of securing her reasonable rights to property, and access to wider spheres of self-supporting activity, are changes in the direction of what is just and fair, confess by the admission that the position of woman at the outset was not wholly in accordance with fairness and justice. In other words woman was unrighteously treated, her weakness was taken advantage of, and she was imposed upon in various ways, until a few mothers in Israel arose and, in the face of much discouragement and derision, began to work for the emancipation of their sisters. To this it may be replied that sequence in time does not always mean the relation of cause and effect. *Post hoc* is not necessarily *propter hoc*. The spirit of the age is and has long been becoming broader and juster, kinder and more charitable. It is but natural that women should be benefitted by the change, so far as their rights had been treasured upon by the sex which makes and administers the laws. But such a mode of argument is not convincing, and we are afraid some of the clever women down at the Normal School buildings would make short work of it were it brought to their notice. The fact is that few will now care to deny that on the whole the women's movement has been a good one. It has secured for woman not only a better status in relation to property and civil rights, but it has opened up for her the doors of the highest educational institutions and has given to multitudes of those to whom it has not fallen to have an opportunity to fulfil woman's highest destiny as wife and mother, the light of hope, by opening the way to other opportunities of usefulness and service. If the woman's movement had wrought no other reform the fact that it has opened the doors to so many opportunities for honourable self-support and dutiful service is an ample atonement for all the disagreeable features it may have presented, and all the harmless shocks it may have administered to the ultra-conservative of both sexes. Though the battle has been so successfully waged, we do not suppose the members of such associations as that now being held in our midst regard the victory as won. Much remains, no doubt, to be done. From the literary point of view the list of topics for discussion in the meetings is a formidable one, but we do not doubt that these subjects, difficult and abstruse as many of them are, will be treated in such a manner as to command at least the respectful and serious attention, even of the philosophers and wisacres of the sterner sex.

THE Executive Committee of the Imperial Federation League in Canada has addressed a brief circular to the Canadian press, enumerating some of the advantages which, in the opinion of the members of the League, would result from Imperial Federation, and suggesting that, in view of the peculiar circumstances in which the country is just now placed by the McKinley Bill, and the disturbing influences which have led up to it, all Canadians, irrespective of party, should urge the adoption of the great scheme which the League exists to advocate. As several paragraphs in our last number were devoted to the subject of Imperial Federation, it is, perhaps, scarcely necessary that we should do more than refer the Committee to the views therein expressed. Recognizing, however, the great importance of the question, and the disinterested earnestness of the advocates of the movement, we may here attempt a specific answer to the questions implied in the circular. We sincerely regret our inability to fall in with the views which are being urged with so much spirit and ability by the Canadian League. We would most gladly second the proposition could we discover in it any good ground for hope of ending "the uneasy, restless feeling which is now injuring trade and checking enterprise" in Canada. Such ground we cannot find in the proposed scheme. The circular suggests to our mind two questions which, though closely related, are by no means synonymous or co-extensive. The first is that implied in the following statement: "The Canadian branch of the League has adopted the view that one most important part of that Federation is to promote such tariff changes as would give to each part of the Empire advantages in the markets of all." This is, as we have before said, unquestionably the *sine qua non* of the proposed Federation. The commercial advantages to accrue from the adoption by the