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A FURTHER PLEA FOR BRITISH AMERICAN
NATIONALITY.

BY THE HONOURABLE THOMAS D'ARCY M'GEE.

To consider well of their own condition, has been recommended to individuals from the remotest times as the highest wisdom ; and assuredly the duty of self-examination is no less salutary to great communities.— It may indeed be said, that the secret of national vigor and longevity, lies hidden in this capacity for searching self-examination. Those empires which have possessed, and never parted with that gift, have retained power longest, and recovered most readily from all their reverses ; while those who form false confidence or false tenderness, from the dearth of moral courage, or the decay of judicial authority, have shown their impotence to interrogate, and to judge themselves, have perished like *fungi* crushed beneath the hoof of conquest, or exploded in atoms, before the pressure of events too powerful to be resisted by such defective organizations.

If ever a people of the New World were called to prove their capacity for self-examination and self-guidance, it is the British Americans of our day. All men who think at all, admit that we have entered into a veritable new era—that we are hereafter to dwell in a New America, to feel the pressure upon us of new forces, and the necessity of finding, if we do not intend to succumb to that pressure, adequate means of resistance. The sudden overcasting of our whole firmament has almost baffled the speed of thought. No natural storm ever spread over a fair prospect with more awful rapidity. Like the lightning that cometh out of the east, it appeared even unto the west ; the evening went down calm and silent, but the morning woke dark and menacing. There, upon our visible horizon, the elements of aggression, are gathered together apparent to every observant eye ; there they hang and blacken, ready to