

THE INDEPENDENCE OF CANADA.

I am of opinion that England should not only not interfere with the civil war now raging in America, but that she should retire altogether from the North American Continent by declaring Canada an independent state. So long as Canada belongs to us we hold out a bait to the United States to go to war with us with a view to its annexation. That being so, it is manifestly the interest both of England and Canada to separate. The press and all our leading statesmen are unanimous in expressing their readiness to give up Canada if the Canadians themselves are willing to accept independence, and if these liberal professions on our part are sincere there will be no difficulty in effecting that object.

The great Tragan, who restored the glories of Rome, contracted the limits of the empire both in Europe and Asia, and when we withdraw our troops from Canada, and declare her independent, we shall strengthen the British Empire, for instead of that vast country contributing to the strength of England, it is a constant source of weakness. We have only to look at the map to convince ourselves that it is essential to the stability of the British Empire that Canada should be given up. By giving up Canada we lose nothing, for our trade will go on with her after she is independent the same as now. So far from losing any thing we shall be great gainers by the change, for we shall save the expense of maintaining an army and navy for her defence which would materially add to the taxation of England.

I have taken some trouble to ascertain the sentiments of the Canadians on this important point, and the result of my enquiries are, 1st, that they would prefer to remain connected with England, and 2nd, that they are satisfied if they were independent, the chances of war with the United States would be reduced in the ratio of twenty to one. Mr. Rose in his recent speech in the Canadian parliament stated that all the wars and rumours of wars in Canada arose solely out of their connection with England, a statement which confirms the information I have derived from private sources. Now I submit that the last admission here made necessarily over-rules the first, for if the chances of war are materially reduced by their independence, it must be their interest to be independent. Peace is a necessity to a young country like Canada, and that blessing by their own showing will be more securely guaranteed to them by their separation from England than by their continuing as they are.

If Canada should prefer dependence that would be no reason why we should not make her independent. We must look to our own