

suffer them to tax her own productions and manufactures without a murmur, as if they were those of a foreign State? Whatever the colonies demand, England grants; and if becoming impatient of the nominal hold she has upon them, they were to require her to recall her governors, and recognize their independence, the whole tenor of her modern colonial policy shews that the demand would be yielded without a remonstrance, and accompanied with a kindly expressed hope that the young nation might be prosperous and happy. And while it is evident that there could be no effectual opposition from abroad, but rather that whatever assistance the mother country could give, would be cheerfully given, so also if we turn to the provinces themselves, we find everything wearing a flattering aspect, and proclaiming that the time for Union is come.

Until the present time each colony has been fully occupied with its own hard task of laying the foundations of its individual existence. All alike have been engaged with the labour of turning the forest into a ploughed field, and of raising buildings befitting a civilized and prosperous people, where the log-huts of the first settlers marked out the sites of future cities. But the first rough work is done; the days of mere settlement are over; and men, no longer compelled to devote all their energies to the rudest elementary labour, are becoming conscious of greater wants, and moved by higher aspirations. To be a Canadian, a Nova Scotian, a New Brunswicker, a Prince Edward Islander, confers no distinction, and gives no title to respect; because for want of a distinct nationality the people of the provinces hold no recognized position in the world; they are only colonists. Hence arises an instinctive feeling for a change from provincial obscurity to national dignity; and hence the reason, why the proposal for the union of the provinces under one central government, has already, in so short a time from the day it was first enunciated, met with so general acceptance. Men naturally and justly wish to rise to a level with their fellow-men; and as with individuals, so with nations this desire, when kept within legitimate bounds, and suffered to run into no excess, is full of benefit to mankind in general, because it is the motive that underlies all human progress, which, after all, is only the result of the efforts of all individuals for their own personal advancement. Hitherto this longing for nationality, where it has existed in British America, has taken the form of a desire for annexation to the late Union, and has manifested itself in an admiration for democratic institutions; but the mass of the people have recoiled with horror from such a destiny, and the willingness with which they listen to proposals for union among themselves shews that national independence can alone satisfy their political wants; while the unmistakable loathing they evince at the notion of being used as a make weight by the Federal States to restore to the constitution the balance that democratic institutions are unable to preserve, is a nation's