

CHAPTER XLII.

RELATIONS TO THE EMPIRE.

WHILE Canada is a self-governing colony it is not an independent state. England reserves to herself the power of disallowing any act passed by the Canadian Parliament, but she does not interfere with legislation except when it affects her relations with a foreign nation. No treaty except commercial ones can be made by Canada, but it has become the practice to give the colony representation on the board of commissioners that makes a treaty in which its interests are concerned. The highest court of appeal is the Privy Council of Great Britain. The Governor-General is appointed by the British government without any direct reference to the wishes of Canadians.

Military Training.

England has now entrusted the fortresses of Canada to Canadian troops; and there are many Canadians well trained in arms and ready to defend their native land or, as recently in the South African war, to volunteer in the service of the motherland. At the same time, Canadians are all assured that if the need should ever come, England would spare neither blood nor treasure to keep their true North-land within the empire to which it would ever be attached.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century British and colonial statesmen began to think seriously of some plan by which the different parts of the British empire could be drawn closer together. The railroad, the steamship and the telegraph have done much to overcome distance. Australia, Canada, India and Africa have ceased to be mere names to one another, and the mothers of the old land who send their sons and daughters to the colonies no longer bid them a lifelong farewell.