

THE  
CANADIAN MONTHLY  
AND NATIONAL REVIEW.

VOL. 8.]

AUGUST, 1875.

[No. 2.

THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF CANADA.\*

BY JEHU MATHEWS, TORONTO.

II.

THE former part of this paper closed at the point where there opened for consideration the scheme of a Canadian Nationality, with its independence guaranteed by England. The feasibility of this project is the question now to be examined.

The proposal helps to clear away a good deal of mist from our subject. If Canada is competent to maintain her own independence, it is evident that there is no need to have England guarantee it; but if an English guarantee is requisite to save her from annexation, it follows that she cannot stand alone, and must cast in her lot with either England or the States. As all our people agree in preferring a British to an American connection, the question, with all who believe the guarantee to be essential, is

narrowed to that of the form which our alliance with the Fatherland shall assume. That it will not be that of an independent Canadian republic, with England bound by treaty to come to its aid in time of war or other difficulty, may be confidently predicted on the most cursory survey of the situation; and the reason is the simple fact that the terms of the new alliance would be even less favourable to England than those which she now denounces as being unfair. The favourite argument of the advocates of a guaranteed nationality is derived from the case of Belgium. "Why," it is asked, "when England is willing to guarantee Belgian, should she be unwilling to guarantee Canadian, independence?" The answers are easy and numerous. In the case of Belgium, she is one of many guaranteeing powers; consequently the burden is lighter than it would be in a case where she would be the sole guarantor. Her interests are more involved in Belgian than in Canadian independence. Her statesmen and soldiers have always been willing to fight rather than allow Belgium to fall into the hands of a possible foe, because they hold that Antwerp and the Scheldt are,

\* Canada First, or Our New Nationality. By W. A. Foster, Esq.

Canadian Nationality: its Growth and Development. By William Canniff, M.D.

Imperial and Colonial Confederation. By A. T. Drummond, B.A., LL.B.

The Colonial Question. By W. H. Fuller, M.A.

Speech of Hon. Edward Blake, M.P., at Aurora.

The Canadian Question. By William Norris, Late Captain of Canadian Volunteers.