

A CANADIAN VIEW OF ANNEXATION.

ALTHOUGH the question of the annexation of Canada to the United States does not figure prominently in the political programme of any of the great parties on either side of the line 45°, there can be no doubt that it is one of those important dormant issues never wholly out of sight. To those in the Dominion who assert that "annexation is dead," I reply that its ghost is far from laid, that it will keep flitting through the political atmosphere, and assume more vigorous and aggressive life than it has yet shown. That it will be a *fait accompli* within the present generation, if not sooner, many of the far-seeing public men of Canada believe. There is no denying, however, that besides the place-holders, ministers, and aspirants to office and imperial favor, there is in the Dominion a loyal section of the population, largely composed of the "old fogies" of British birth and the Orangemen of Ontario, who will stoutly oppose its realization. I may also place on this side a number of English and Scotch merchants, above middle life, many of the clergy, together with a considerable body of timid Conservatives, who naturally shrink from the idea of radical change. But, on the other hand, there are multitudes, even of British Protestants, who set the slightest possible value on the connection with England, which they were only too glad to escape from in order to better their condition. As for the Irish Roman Catholics, who are intelligent, industrious, and law-abiding, and number about one-fourth of the entire population,—say one million,—their loyalty to Great Britain is unequal to the mildest strain. While they and their children, born and reared in Canada, may not ardently desire annexation to the United States at present, it is undeniable that the great majority would, were the question put to a quiet vote, prefer annexation, to the government under