

sentiment if you would carry an audience with you; and though she recognises as no other nation does the unrighteousness of every war that is not necessary, I tell you that there is strength enough in the old lion to astonish the world yet—notwithstanding her wealth.

It is only fair to say here that my friend's argument went further than I have indicated. He considered that Britain was bound to decay, because she had responsible government, and he greatly preferred the United States system, where, once a President has been chosen, there is a practically irresponsible executive for four years. If there is anything in this, Britain should adopt the United States system. So should Canada. We should at once discard responsible government. I have not heard of any such proposal being made, however. We believe not only in being free once in every four years, but in being free all the time. Our form of government is a continuous education of the people; and though it has its evils, perhaps Macaulay is right when he says, "for the evils of liberty the best cure is more liberty."

(e) "*We would have little influence in the Federation.*" Well, in the first place, we would have more than we have now. We have none at all now, except that which is indirect and conceded by the generosity of Britain. We deserve to have none, for we have not shown that we value it, except by newspaper clamour when the inconvenience of our position is felt. It is humiliating to read articles in our papers calling on Britain to send *her* ships, for instance to Behring Sea. I do not undertake to say whether ships of war should be sent there from Esquimaux or not; but until we are able to change the pronoun and use the phrase *our* ships, we should have the grace to keep silent. Oh, but, you say, think of the expense, if we undertook to bear a share of the cost of the Imperial navy. Certainly, but if we go in for Independence, we shall have to build our own ships. Which will be the heavier burden, to build them at our own cost or in conjunction with the wealthiest Empire in the world? Again, if we go in for Annexation, we shall have to pay not only our share of the United States fleet, but our share of the pension fund. That of itself would be seven or eight millions (dollars) a year, as the total is over ninety millions—a good deal more, that one item, than our share in a British-Canadian fleet! Two or three years ago a Montreal newspaper made out that our connection with the Mother Country was only nominal, but when neighbours began to bully us for protecting