

day for Canada were she to return to the old condition of things which existed previous to the rebellion of 1837-8, when, as Lord Durham said, he 'found two nations roaring in the bosom of a single state; a struggle not of principles but of races.' Happily that condition of things no longer exists. The history of the fifty years that have elapsed since the 'dark days' of Canada goes to show that the governing classes of the English and French nationalities have ceased to feel towards each other that intense spirit of jealousy which was likely at one time to develop itself into a dangerous hatred. The spirit of conciliation and justice, which has happily influenced the action of leading English and French Canadian statesmen in the administration of public affairs, together with the conservative influence of the priests in Quebec, has been so far successful in repressing the spirit of passion and demagogism which has exhibited itself at certain political crises, and in eventually bringing the two nationalities into harmony with each other. Without compromise and conciliation Canada with its distinct nationalities can never be successfully governed. As long as there are in her midst two distinct national elements face to face,—the one in the minority animated by a determination to adhere strictly to its language and customs, the other in the majority equally believing in the superiority of its own institutions,—it is inevitable that there should be always a latent spirit of antagonism in the country which might at any moment develop itself in a very dangerous form. Should one press nationalism beyond the limits of justice or prudence in a moment of passion, or should the other, with the arrogance sometimes characteristic of a majority, attempt to violate solemn obligations and overturn the institutions to which the minority are wedded, the result would be a political revolution which would end in bloodshed and ruin. But all this is perhaps mere idle speculation. Every reason exists to make us believe that as long as the same wise counsels continue to prevail in Canada that have heretofore governed her, and carried her successfully through critical periods, the integrity of the confederation is assured, and the two races will ever work harmoniously together, united by the ties of a common interest, and a common allegiance to the Empire to whose fostering care they already owe so much.