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TORONTO, CAN. FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 1874

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH ON EMIGRA-  
TION TO CANADA.

Mr. Goldwin Smith will do Canada service, especially if the speech he delivered in Sheffield is copied in the agricultural journals, and reaches the class likely to emigrate. The class whom he addressed are too well off at home, to think of breaking up old associations and crossing the Atlantic, but amongst the thousands of the the agricultural laborers, now all aglow with excitement, over Mr. Arch's mission, it must be the means of directing their thoughts to Canada in preference to the States. For the manly, outspoken way in which Mr. Smith put the matter, he deserves our thanks; the more so as he is somewhat democratically inclined, and has lived long enough both in the States and Canada to be able to draw a fair comparison between the two countries. He left England avowedly because he gave preference to democratic institutions, but practical acquaintance with that particular development of democracy which exists to the south of us, has considerably modified his views. He prefers Canada deliberately, and prefers it because it is more English. He prefers Canada because we here keep up English traditions, have English literature, read English newspapers, and are proud of our ancestral home. And these he considers advantages. That they are so, no sensible person can doubt,—for with all her faults England has a deep seated love of liberty. She has also a high tone of intelligence, a

true sense of justice, and is maintaining a steady march in the race of progress. Canada, beyond doubt, is doing far better to take her for a guide than any other country that might be named. With all her faults, we say, for as Mr. Smith very well pointed out, there is a difference between England and Canada in many respects. It is perfectly true that many emigrants do not want to find a perfect counterpart to what they leave behind. There is in England a State Church and an aristocratic system, which while having admirable uses in their way, possessing a great charm for those benefitted by them, do yet bear heavily on large numbers of the people. The parson or the squire is not always a pattern of beneficence and good-will, and many have been made to feel that in the country districts of England, a man can scarcely dare to call his soul his own. Those who are not at home in the services of the State Church, and desire a livelier form of religion are often taught by severe experience that the landlord or the clergyman are terrible powers to make headway against. Those pretty English villages, and quiet old rural towns, so charming to the tourist, so entrancing to the visitor from this side of the Atlantic are not always nice places to live in. The state of society is such that a quiet kind of benevolent tyranny on the one hand, and a well-developed flunkysm on the other, are the almost inevitable conditions of society. The emigrant, generally, has had to taste a little of the unpleasant side of this state of things, and is not at all sorry to leave it behind him. But he knows very well that there is a great deal more than all this in England, and it is precisely this that we have tried to preserve in Canada, in contrast with our neighbors, who have, as we think, in their revolutionary zeal reformed a little too much.

Here in Canada we respect the law and its administrators. Our judges are men of unquestioned ability, we have deliberately retained many of the insignia and forms by which respect is denoted. A judge will not be found in his shirt-sleeves, nor will counsel slap him on the back in a hail-fellow-well-met style, as they walk along the streets. Our barristers plead in gowns (though we have dropped the wig) and certainly they need fear no comparison with their brethren in the States, in point either of knowledge of law or of man. Sheriffs, provosts, professors, and graduates in universities, keep up very much of the old state and style, in court and convocation, and our University and Parliamentary buildings, (the finest, by the way, in America) are after mediæval patterns, rich in

stone carvings, and stained glass, reminding all visitors of Oxford or Westminster.

Still more is it about our Government and our Parliament, that the old forms indicative of respect and developing it, are kept up; and, we say deliberately, there is something in every Englishman (using this word in its broadest sense) that finds a pleasure in these things. No matter how fierce a democrat he may have been at home, when he finds these things associated with freedom in church and state, with a widely extended suffrage, with free educational institutions, with an opportunity for every man to rise as he has ability and opportunity; he takes delight in these outward forms of respect. It may be in the blood; we suppose it is. But there can be no doubt of the sentiment. There is no newly arrived Englishman, visiting parliament on a great occasion, and hearing a stirring debate, or seeing the House opened or prorogued with state and ceremony by the Governor, but will feel something tingling within him, and be glad that Canada is so like the old mother-land. If these things lowered the intellectual tone there would be sense in abolishing them. But that they do not we have abundant evidence in the statesmanship which Canada has already developed and the ability of her parliamentary debates.

Englishmen, however much they disliked certain things they experienced in England, when living there, invariably on coming here look upon the old mother-land with respect. At any rate they cannot bear to hear her vilified and abused.

For this reason alone, the average Englishman would find himself more at home in Canada than in the States. He would find, moreover, in church matters, all the old modes and forms he has been accustomed to in England, no matter to what denomination he belonged. We have no state church, but the Church of England is here, with all that makes her services attractive to those who have learned to love them, and she is very much more free than in England. Other churches are here just as they are to be found in England and Scotland. Then, as to climate,—the English papers cannot be got to understand this—that the climate of a large portion of the Northern and North-western States is exactly of the same character as that of Canada. Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire are precisely like the Provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick, in both winter and summer, while Massachusetts, Western New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Northern Illinois have a climate exactly resembling Ontario. Minnesota, and part of Nebraska, experience, indeed, more