

CURRENT EVENTS.

IS IT SHAME?

SUCH is the question which many Canadians have been asking themselves during the past few weeks, when it has been brought home to them that their country, or at least their Government, has been the laggard in coming to testify its loyalty to the imperial flag, and its devotion to the unity of the Empire. Undoubtedly, this is the fact. We have been the last to declare our readiness to draw the sword. While the troops of New Zealand have been marching through the streets of London, we have been debating the question, and at least one of our ministers has been using language which can only be described as disloyal. Yet for all that it cannot be said that Canada is disloyal. The people are sound at heart, have been chafing under the delay, and now that the word has been given, are crowding to the standard. Yet a day will come when the country may take upon itself the shame which now rests only upon certain of its representatives. We believe that time will never come. We believe the country will call these men to a strict account. In the first place, it is not creditable to us, that we, the greatest of the colonies of the British Empire, should have been the most backward to come to the help of the Mother Country. It is not, of course, that she actually needs our help. Great Britain could fight out many such wars, humanly speaking, without drawing upon any resources but her own. But that is not the point. More and more the sentiment is growing that the Empire is one. We are not mere outside dependencies, hanging upon our Mother, yielding her a kind of filial support. We are part and parcel of the great Body Politic; and we want

to enjoy privileges and to fulfil duties in accordance with this idea; and we should feel morified and humbled, if we could believe that any part of the Empire was more ready to recognize such duty than ourselves. Then, again, our dependence upon the strength of the Empire is much greater than that of any of the other colonies. We do not imagine that it would make much difference to Australia or New Zealand, whether the strength of the Mother Country were great or small. It is hardly conceivable that any other European Power should greatly desire to annex those colonies; certainly it is in the highest degree improbable that any such power should submit to any considerable sacrifices, in order to bring about any such result. But such an attempt is by no means impossible or even highly improbable in our own case. In thus writing we do not imagine for a moment that the United States Government has any design against the Independence of Canada, and we do not suppose that either the Government or the people of the United States would think for a moment of annexing the Dominion of Canada to their own territory—that is to say, in any direct and immediate manner. But everyone can see that, in the case of certain emergencies, such a desire might very easily arise, or at any rate that such measures might be taken as would seriously injure the interests of the Dominion. And, if we stood alone, how would it be with us? And what is the difference between our entering into controversy with our powerful neighbor, by ourselves or with the power of the British Empire behind us? We do not suspect the United States of the least desire to do us harm in any kind of way. We re-