

## Rebels of the Times.

Canada, at this moment, is like a young scion of an ancient and honored family, who has just come to an age when he feels his strength. The blood of many past generations is circulating in his veins, and during his own short lifetime he has had his full share of the discipline and buffeting which wise men agree to be so good for youth. He has been snubbed when he became too self-confident; and of cuffs and blows administered with hearty good-will (in the spirit of kindness doubtless) he has had a plentiful share in his younger days. The parental treatment has not always—truth to say—been of the wisest. The discipline suitable to a child was continued until he was a strong and lusty boy, and tutors and governors drew the bands so tight that they burst at last, and the young hopeful broke into open rebellion. A crisis like this brought about the result usual in cases where there is after all a real respect on both sides. A liberty more suitable to the age and present circumstances of the lad was granted. The vast and wild domain set apart as his future inheritance, was reserved more and more to his use and benefit; and as he grew older year by year he was encouraged to explore it, stimulated to subdue it, consulted about its boundaries, and made to feel that it was largely his own. At one time, indeed, this policy was carried somewhat too far. Hints, broad hints indeed, were conveyed to him that he was old enough and strong enough to set up an independent establishment, and that the heads of the old house at home would be rather pleased than otherwise at his doing so. Some circumstances favored the idea. The young man had developed marvelously since the bands were relaxed. He had shown himself, on more than one occasion, to have the great qualities of the families from which he derived descent. He had be-

come ambitious and bold; he had done wonders with his estate; he had large ideas of the future. But with a wisdom, perhaps beyond his years, he knew his position better than to take the hint to separate, and gradually the notion faded away from the parental imagination.

The two never understood each other better than at present. A high filial respect on the one side is accompanied by a considerable parental pride on the other. The parents view with unconcealed gratification the growing manliness and vigor of their stalwart son, and think with pride of his achievements in building, and planting, and cultivating—achievements which, as they well know, are but the earnest of what is to be done by and by. And the son glories in the great historic fame and mighty deeds in arms and arts, in verse and song, in law and learning, in commerce and colonizing, of the two great lines of ancestry whence he derives his descent. All that is wise, and good, and great in them he is proud to reproduce; and he uses the large liberty, now wisely conceded to him, to adapt, select and reject, according to his own judgment of what is best. Seldom has there been a happier political position; we may, perhaps, use the stronger word—never; let all, therefore, who wish Canada well join us in the hearty and fervent aspiration, *Este perpetua*.

A review of the times would be generally considered complete if we gave a fair and full *resumé* of the political position. History, as a rule, is a mere chronicle of the doings of governments. The reign of this and that king, with the edicts passed, wars waged, treaties enacted, is the history of the time, so far as books are concerned. Perhaps it is a necessity; for, in truth, the ordinary affairs of which the real life of many people is made up do not yield material for elaborate chronicles. Yet, after