

tion or Independence is our destiny. The positive sentiment in favour of the former is not very great, nor has the incipient agitation for its propagation yet assumed alarming proportions. However, when sectional feeling runs so high that a leading journal can advocate annexation as a means of "swamping the French," and when a whole province pronounces emphatically in favour of secession, we think we are not overdrawing the picture when we say that Annexation is regarded by many with a good deal of complacency. With one-fourth as many Canadians in the States as there are at home, with great resources undeveloped, with national life almost stagnant, what wonder if many Canadians look with longing eyes at the great material prosperity of the adjoining republic? What wonder if they do not look upon political union with very great repugnance? There may be and we believe there are reasons for all this, that legislation might remedy; but there is a great reason which legislators say far too little about, and do still less to remove. It is the lack of a deep national sentiment of pride in our country and belief in its future, not as a New-France nor as a British Colony, but as a great Canadian nation whose ultimate destiny is absolute independence.

"Surely the Lion's brood is strong
To front the world alone."

Our resources are undeveloped some say because we do not get our share of immigration. What immigration would compensate us for the million of energetic Canadians now in the States? A deep-rooted national sentiment would keep most of these at home, and if they staid, others would come, for Canada growing in wealth and strength, would make her individuality felt among the nations of the world. With such a sentiment we could laugh at the puny efforts of annexationists, or rather the annexation sentiment which lives, moves and has its being in apathy

and discontent, would disappear with its causes.

Some reproachfully tell us that we have no historic traditions, nothing to foster a national spirit. No? Did our fathers or grandfathers lose all right to share in the historic memories of their ancestors merely because they had the sturdy manliness, the heroism, to come to the woods of Canada and hew out homes for themselves and their children? Not only have we all past history to inspire us, but we inherit the qualities of our forefathers who made that history. The inspiriting words of our distinguished fellow-countryman, Prof. Roberts should be a "memory lesson" for every young Canadian:

"Oh child of nations, giant-limbed,
Who stand'st amid the nations now
Unheeded, unadorned, unhymned,
With unanointed brow!"

"The Saxon force, the Celtic fire
These are thy manhood's heritage!
Why rest with babes and slaves? seek higher
The place of race and age!"

PUBLIC OPINION.

It is entirely fitting at this time—in indeed other occasions may be said to be inopportune—to refer to a power that has long wielded a controlling influence in the doings of nations and of individuals. A good test of a monarch's strength is the demand that is made upon him for the exercise of his prerogative. The favor of those in authority never ceases to be courted and it is a well-established axiom that the more extensive the jurisdiction, the more generous will be the patronage the ruler will be called upon to distribute.

On this hypothesis the logic of an appeal to public opinion is at once evident, for if there is a fact which history has strongly emphasized it is that the true ruler is not the king, nor the lords, nor the Commons, but public opinion.