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"The Advertiser" is an organ of news and of thoroughly independent opinion. The ADVERTISER alone is responsible for opinions expressed in these columns.

"The Advertiser" advocates Continental Free Trade, and as early as possible after, free trade with the whole world.

"The Advertiser" looks forward with hope to Canada's future as that of an Independent Canadian Nationality, in equally friendly alliance with the United States and with Great Britain, believing that such a status would be best for Canada, best for Great Britain, and promotive of the best attainable relations with the United States. As to Imperial Federation, sometimes spoken of, the ADVERTISER as yet has seen nothing proposed that bears any stamp of practicability, and in any case infinitely prefers the grander and more really hopeful scheme of a federation of the English-speaking peoples of the world.

"The Advertiser" advocates prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor; and all expedient general legislation and persuasion in the meantime.

"The Advertiser" is an advocate of equal rights for women, whether as regards the franchise, or equal wages for equal work.

"The Advertiser" is a believer in Christian Union, and considers the time has come when the various Christian denominations should come closer together. Those bodies which are now nearest should unite first. Under the present system there is an unjustifiable waste of men, means and effort. The ADVERTISER will endeavor to promote the movement for Christian union not alone by direct appeal and argument, but by seeking to present the best rather than the worst side of each denomination.

"The Advertiser" advocates Obligatory Voting as both necessary and practicable. Nothing would so much purify electoral contests. Nothing would so much enforce the idea that the franchise is a duty, not a chattel.

God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.
—[BROWNING.

London, Wednesday, Oct. 27.

THE Allan Line threatens to make its winter port at Portland, instead of at Halifax, N. S.

PREMIER MERCIER of Quebec has been interviewed at some length on the present condition of affairs in that Province. Like Mr. Blaine, the Quebec Premier has been represented by his political enemies as very ill and likely to collapse, but Mr. Mercier says he is in the best of health, though of course sorry to contradict the excellent authorities who have persistently circulated a contrary view. The Premier thinks Hon. Mr. Langelier may resign his seat in the Cabinet to prevent a false construction being put on his position, but it is doubtful if the resignation will be accepted, as Mr. Mercier holds that his colleague has done nothing wrong. Mr. Mercier announces that both Mr. Langelier and himself would go before the Royal Commission. He has been, he says, accused of wrongdoing because he refused to speak till now, but he holds his course to be wise. Even if the Lieutenant-Governor should be willing to accede to the clamor of his enemies, who wish to see him dismissed, Mr. Mercier says there are constitutional objections to that course, because it would be difficult to arrange for a general election before the date fixed for the meeting of the House. In the present Assembly Mr. Mercier says he has at least sixteen of a majority. It will be a remarkable stretch of the prerogative if Lieutenant-Governor Angers orders his Ministers about their business while so supported in the popular Chamber, and before the House has an opportunity to pronounce upon the question at issue.

Literary Piracy Punished.

LONDON, Oct. 27.—Sheridan Ford was sentenced to pay a fine of $100 or three months' imprisonment, and to pay $600 damages also, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment, for "pirating" books written by Mr. Whistler, president of the Society of British Artists.

THE FUTURE OF CANADA

For and Against Political Union with the States.

Bengough on the Relation of Canadians with Their Neighbors.

Professor Goldwin Smith Writes on the Benefits of Complete Amalgamation.

Erastus Wiman Says Annexation Is Neither Necessary Nor Desirable.

A Westminster Farmer's Plea for the Fusion of the Two Sections of the Race.

Fear of Russia Supplies a Strong Argument for Complete Anglo-Saxon Unity.

The question of Canada's political future is exercising many persons in the Dominion at the present time, and in some parts of the country members of both political parties have joined in an agitation for the political union of Canada and the United States. This journal looks forward to the establishment of an independent Canadian Nation as the best destiny for the Dominion, but being a newspaper, and not a political organ, it is neither afraid nor averse to having any view of the question discussed in its columns. After all the people are the final arbiters of their destiny, and they may be relied on to shape it in the direction that will most conduce to their welfare, moral and material. From various quarters we have communications on the subject. They are interesting as showing how persons in far-apart localities view the subject of our future.

RECIPROCITY THE IDEAL.

The talented J. W. Bengough, of Grip, answers the question, "What is honestly and reasonably to be said against the two separate English-speaking peoples of this continent becoming politically one nation?" in these terms:

1. That it is unnecessary. There is plenty of room on this continent for two great nations. A single nation, when the northern half of the continent is as densely populated as the southern, would be unwieldy.

2. That it is inexpedient so far as Canada is concerned, if it involves the giving up of our own institutions in favor of those of the United States. We prefer our own.

3. All the benefits that political union could possibly confer would be conferred by the removal of the customs line.

4. As friendly neighbors (which we would always be if the tariff thorn were removed) we would mutually enjoy the benefits of a generous emulation in the work of advancing the human race.

FAVORS POLITICAL UNION.

A leading Montreal business man, interviewed on the subject, said: "I am in favor of political union with the United States because: First. It would make commercial reciprocity permanent between the two countries and attract capital here. Second. It would remove one barrier to immigration hither both from the United States and Europe; Americans do not like to desert their flag, and Europeans do not care to seek refuge under the flag of a rival European power. Third. Our burden of debt is greater than we can bear and prosper; part of it would necessarily be assumed by the new union. Fourth. I see no prospect of a national sentiment in Canada; what public sentiment there is, is local or provincial, and we could preserve this under the new union, while our economic position would be immensely better. Fifth. Much of the trade of the Western and Northwestern States with Europe would be operated through Canada."

FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

Dr. J. D. Macdonald, a leading citizen of Hamilton, Ont., was asked by an ADVERTISER correspondent as to his opinion for or against the political union of Canada with the United States Republic. He said: "It is a difficult matter to discuss. It may be said that, to a patriotic man, there should be no difficulty, but under the conditions which surround Canada we may be allowed to hesitate before discussing even such a question as annexation to the United States. Undoubtedly it is a question present to many minds at the present moment. The greater number, I believe, are loath to look at political union now from any aversion to the Republic or to republicism, but from a desire to put from themselves, as far as possible, the confession of political failure which would be implied in their seeking for Canada incorporation with her strong neighbor. Whether as a stepping stone to annexation, or as affording an opportunity for development in a more honorable way, many would like the experiment of national independence. Attaining to national independence, Canadians would have conditions much simplified for any future arrangements. The advantage or disadvantage of such arrangements the satisfaction or disappointment from them, the honor or the reproach would be all their own, no friends across the sea would be compromised. In the meantime the colonial condition is a source of great political weakness and uncertainty. It affects the very manhood of the country unfavorably. It prevents the dwellers in Canada from seeing with singleness of eye the interests of their own country. It makes them uncertain as to whether the land in which they live is theirs at all. By his condition as a colonist the Canadian in every public question finds himself placed in a strait betwixt two. He is called upon to serve two interests—of one of which, that of Great Britain, he has not the most remote conception, and to the other of which, that of Canada, he has not given much thought. If his country had the responsibilities which attach to independence he would give better attention to its concerns, and would perhaps be less ready than he too often proves to be, to step into the snare "set in his sight" by the boodler to whom his vote is to be of use.

AGAINST ANNEXATION.

Erastus Wiman, the well known Canadian resident of New York, who has lectured in this city, and who has been represented as in favor of the political union of Canada and the United States, says that the advocacy of political union is a mistake, because it keeps the people apart. "It is," said Mr. Wiman, "fatal to the cause of reciprocity, which would bring them together quicker than anything else for the purposes of trade, and it is trade we are after these days rather than territory. It is a conviction in the minds of annexationists that the surest preventative of annexation is reciprocity. The annexationist argues that to give a free and unrestricted interchange of products and manufactures would be to afford to Canada all the material advantages which she would gain by annexation. To deny her reciprocity would be to force her into annexation, if such a thing were possible, which it is not. Hence you will see that annexation and reciprocity, at any rate for the present moment, do not go hand in hand. That the advocacy of reciprocity postpones annexation is equally true. There is no argument in Canada in favor of annexation except the material argument, and if the material argument is removed by reciprocity, annexation is indefinitely postponed."

A PREMIUM ON ROBBERY.

Koenig Bros., Ayton, Ont., write that they heartily favor political union, for the reason that it would do away with the delays and robberies by the customs at the border that are incident to the present relations between the two great English-speaking countries. The change, in the opinion of this firm, would improve the business and the morals of the people.

GOLDWIN SMITH'S SENTIMENTS.

Goldwin Smith's views of the trend of affairs were set forth in reply to a request that he would attend a recent meeting at Windsor in favor of political union. He contended that Confederation has been a failure, because it was a compromise to begin with, and had been expensively and corruptly carried on. Continuing, he says: "The framers of Confederation confidently looked forward to a vast and rapid increase of the population as the consequence of their measure. Some of them are fortunate in not living to be confronted by the census of 1891. How can anything worse be said of a policy than that it is sending away the people by hundreds of thousands from their homes? If it is the men that make the nation the great annexationists are the upholders of the present system.

"If Confederation has proved futile as an attempt to unite what nature has divided, it has proved equally futile as an attempt to put aside what nature has united. It is unnecessary to dilate upon this in writing to those who look across from Windsor to Detroit. The social and general fusion between the two sections of the English-speaking race upon this continent, in spite of the desperate efforts made to prolong estrangement, is every day becoming more complete.

"Our country, as we all rejoice to believe, is full of resources and of the moral and material elements of prosperity. What it wants is only a fair chance; but this it cannot have as long as it is starved and stunted by the evil pressure of a perverse and unnatural policy.

"Among other kind things that have been said about me, it has been constantly asserted that I left England from discontent or on bad terms with my former political friends. There is not a shadow of foundation for the statement. I am as thoroughly at home in England as ever I was, and more than once since I settled here I have received from my old political party on the other side of the water the most decisive proofs of confidence and regard that a political party can give. I have therefore a right to speak as one thoroughly true to the interest and honor of my native country. It is my settled conviction that in regard to this question the real interest of the Canadian people and that of the English people are one. By the union of the English-speaking race on this continent Great Britain would lose absolutely nothing. She would gain the friendship of the whole race and be released from the dangers and liabilities which she now retains, while she has lost the very shadow of power. Nothing, I repeat, is more fixed in my mind than the belief that loyalty to the mother country will be best shown by promoting the alliance of all her offspring here. I take it for granted that you, like myself, would never contemplate anything without the consent of the mother country signified by the Crown and Parliament.

"Opinion on these subjects has been making progress. This is seen if we compare the position now held by the leaders of the Liberal party with the position held by its leaders twenty years ago. I remember the time when the great Liberal organ of that day denounced us as traitors if we spoke of Canada as anything but a dependency or claimed for her even commercial self-government. Not only Liberals but Conservatives have advanced. A Conservative Minister, by laying protective duties on British goods, took Canada out of the commercial unity of the empire and proclaimed Canadian interest as the sole rule of his policy, setting English, Scotch and Irish opposition openly at defiance. Our people have been kept silent and even constrained sometimes to belie their real sentiments by a moral terrorism, exercised often in interests far from really patriotic. Let a bold hand break the ice and the waters are ready to flow."

FAVORS INDEPENDENCE.

A contrary view is expressed by M. J. Sheridan, a correspondent of the ADVERTISER at Jack Fish Bay, Ont., who writes:

Without being a strict adherent of either political party in this country, I wish to express an opinion on the question you are now putting before your readers; and I say, with a strong conviction that I am right, that political Union with the United States would be detrimental to the best interests of Canada. Canada, as our cousins to the south of us well know, is a rich country, possessing mineral and wheat growing lands not to be excelled, therefore they want to force us by any means within reach to throw in our lot with theirs and become part of Uncle Sam's domain. But Canadians will answer "No," we are Canadians and proud of our birthright, and if ever we do sever the tie that binds us to the mother country it "will be to go on our own hook," and float our own flag proudly with the breeze, always independent of Uncle Sam, and still retain our name and nationality; for

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own my native land."

A WESTMINSTER FARMER.

Henry Anderson, Wilton Grove, a leading Westminster farmer, being asked for his views on the subject of our national future replied as follows:

1. Political union is the only remedy for the domination of the French party in the Dominion Legislature and the robbery of the Dominion Treasury for the benefit of Quebec.

2. It would obviate all danger of war on this continent, or what is nearly as bad, expensive preparations for war, that at this time is the greatest curse of Europe, and may become so here if the present insane divisions are perpetuated.

3. It would double the value of capital invested in trade or manufactures. In a few years, when the United States debt is paid, while our debt is sure to be increased, if not doubled, property of all kinds will be worth double in the States to what it will be in Canada.

4. Fair reciprocity in trade will never be obtained, no matter which party we place in power. It is absurd to expect the Yankees will do anything to promote the prosperity of a rival nationality on this continent.

5. It would be a blessing to England if she was relieved of the ever-recurring disputes concerning British America. There would then be nothing to prevent a cordial fraternal feeling amongst all the English-speaking people of the world, and we should be spared the humiliation of seeing our mother country humbling herself and yielding the advantage in every treaty to the Americans, rather than undertake the hopeless task of defending Canada.

6. I have discussed the question for years past with men of both political parties and am satisfied that if a leader like Hon. Ed. Blake would come out square for political union on fair conditions a very large majority of the electors of Ontario would support him, in spite of the fact that political cowardice prevents the majority from expressing their opinions until some prominent man has the courage to lead the way.

THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE FIRST.

James Smith, a Brant county farmer, writes:

In regard to the future of Canada, I ask, What has British connection done for Canada? Is it not the principal barrier to our progress? Is it not keeping away the Germans, the Scandinavians and the Irish from our soil? Were we part of the United States our rate of progress must at least equal that country's, which last decade was 25 per cent. as against 11.5 in Canada. In the matter of public morality we can no longer claim any advantage. If annexation is good for Canadians as individuals it must be good for Canadians as a whole. The only obstacle is sentimentalism, but sentimentalism is no more satisfying in this practical age than is scenery.

"Trader," Colpoy's Bay, Ont., writes strongly adhering to the belief that political union would be mutually advantageous to Canada and the United States.

FAVORS A WIDER UNION.

Theo. L. Pitt, Niagara Falls Center, Ont., writes:

Canada is not simply an "English-speaking people of this continent." It is an integral part of the British Empire. To propose the political union of Canada with the United States, independently of the remainder of the British Empire, is to propose the disintegration of that empire.

The British Empire to-day, and prospectively for a long future, is the greatest political bulwark of modern civilization. Its flag represents, its power defends, its enterprise is upbuilding and extending, the greatest empire of freedom and human progress the world has ever seen. To propose its disintegration is treason to that freedom and human progress, and to modern civilization.

The British Empire heads the column of resistance to the aggression and ultimate dominance of Russia and Russian barbarism over the eastern continent. Disintegrate the British Empire and Kossuth's prophetic warning may yet come true. "America may yet see Cossacks!" Disintegrate the British Empire and England and all her present colonies and dependencies will see Cossacks, and many of her sons Siberia or its equivalent. That is the great issue of the future, the very heart of the undying eastern question. Shall Anglo-Saxon civilization, Anglo-Saxon freedom, Anglo-Saxon free Bibles and free religion, Anglo-Saxon progress on all the lines of human advancement, Anglo-Saxon individual liberty of movement, of growth, of education, of spiritual, intellectual, moral and physical culture, and all that makes the true glory of the English-speaking world—shall all this go on to the progressive conquest and blessing of the eastern continent and of the earth, or shall the Russian opposite of all this prevail? To you, Canadians of to-day, this is a vital question, infinitely more important than the sale of your surplus eggs and hay, barley and potatoes, codfish and lumber. As you loyally help to settle it right, or disloyally help to settle it wrong, so will your sons and daughters of future generations bless or curse you.

By its development under the fostering protection of the British Government, and the building of the world's greatest railway across its continental expanse, Canada has become a great highway of the Empire between the east and the west—between England and Asia and Australasia—a highway whose value in the present condition of eastern and the world's affairs cannot be measured or approximately estimated. Sever Canada from the British Empire and you cut the Empire in two, close this highway, and antagonize the world's best interests.

Not the union of Canada with the United States, with its attendant disintegration of the British Empire, but the loyal union of Canada with the whole British Empire, and the union of the whole British Empire and the United States of America in one fraternal, world-wide Anglo-Saxon Confederation, offensive and defensive, should be the watchword and political rallying cry, not only of Canada but of the English-speaking world. Until this larger union comes, let Canada stand with England.

LESSONS FROM THE PAST.

"Continental Union," writing from Windsor, says:

During the past 25 years, since the Confederation of the Provinces, but more especially since 1878, when the National Policy which was to make us a nation of 20,000,000 in less than a score of years was inaugurated, the Government have put forth tremendous exertions to populate this country and fulfill their promises to a confiding people. In the effort they have spent money with a lavishness that has never been paralleled by any other country. They have covered the face of the Dominion with a network of railways; they have enlarged old and built new canals; at an enormous cost; they have undertaken public works in all parts of the country; they have spent millions in purchasing and opening new territory; they have subsidized and bonused almost everything on wheels—they have, in short, since Confederation raised our debt from about $90,000,000 to about $300,000,000—and with what result? Bear in mind that the prime object of all this vast expenditure was to secure population for a new country. Yet the result in the last ten years—the ten years of the wildest expenditure—the ten years of that protection to native industry which was to erect tall chimneys in every hamlet in the land—the ten years at the end of which, it was predicted, the sale of land in the Northwest was to be sufficient to wipe out the entire national debt, besides paying for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway—the net result of that ten years is the failure to sell enough land to more than pay for surveys, the diminution of population in many of our best counties and towns, and the petty increase of but 500,000 souls in the Dominion at large, notwithstanding that during the same period we paid 900,000 people to immigrate to the country. Yes, we do talk of the disappointing census returns and the heavy national debt! Is it any wonder? They are the undeniable results of our exclusion from our rightful position on the American continent. They are guide-posts for our future. They should set every intelligent man thinking. They have dumfounded our statesmen. They are more eloquent than tongue or pen in telling us that political union is a necessity of the immediate future. Who are the men who wish to bring destruction upon their country? Are they those who heed the signs of the times and ask for a change to remedy this great evil, or are they those who, from the perversity of human nature, let us charitably suppose, strive to keep the country in the slough in which it is steadily sinking deeper and deeper day after day? The true patriots are those who demand the union of the Anglo-Saxon people on this continent.

RAW AS BEEF-STEAK.

Baby's Fearful Suffering from Skin Disease Covering Entire Body Cured by Cuticura.

My baby was taken very sick when he was 3 months old, and in a few days began breaking out. We employed both of the home doctors and they could nothing for him. Then we sent for the best doctor in Eaton Rapids, Mich., and he doctored him for two weeks, and he got worse all the time; and then I took him to Jackson, to a doctor who attends especially to skin diseases, and then he got worse than ever. Then I told my husband we had better try the CUTICURA REMEDIES any way, did not have any idea they would do any good, but in less than two months from the time we began giving them to him he was entirely well, and not a spot on him. His hair began growing right off, and we thought he would always be bald-headed. There was not a spot on his whole body, face and head, only his nose and eyes, but what was as raw as beefsteak. So poor there was not anything but bones and so weak he could raise neither hand nor head.

MRS. FRANK BARRETT, Winfield, Mich.

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The new Blood and Skin Purifier and greatest of Humor Remedies, cleanses the blood of all impurities and poisonous elements, and thus removes the cause, while CUTICURA, the great Skin Cure, and CUTICURA SOAP, an exquisite skin beautifier, clear the skin and scalp and restore the hair. Thus the CUTICURA REMEDIES cure every species of itching, burning, scaly, pimply and blotchy skin, scalp and blood diseases, from pimples to scrofula, from infancy to age, when the best physicians fail.

Sold everywhere. Price, CUTICURA, 75c.; SOAP, 35c.; RESOLVENT, $1 50. Prepared by the POTTER DRUG AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION, Boston.

Send for "How to Cure Blood Diseases."

BABY'S Skin and Scalp purified and beautified by CUTICURA SOAP. Absolutely pure.

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No Chemicals

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W. BAKER & CO., Dorchester, Mass.

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ARE NOT a Purgative Medicine. They are a BLOOD BUILDER, TONIC and RECONSTRUCTOR, as they supply in a condensed form the substances actually needed to enrich the Blood, curing all diseases coming from POOR and WATERY BLOOD, or from VITIATED HUMORS in the BLOOD, and also invigorate and BUILD UP the BLOOD and SYSTEM, when broken down by overwork, mental worry, disease, excesses and indiscretions. They have a SPECIFIC ACTION on the SEXUAL SYSTEM of both men and women, restoring LOST VIGOR and correcting all IRREGULARITIES and SUPPRESSIONS.

EVERY MAN Who finds his mental faculties dull or failing, or his physical powers flagging, should take these PILLS. They will restore his lost energies, both physical and mental.

EVERY WOMAN should take them. They cure all suppressions and irregularities, which inevitably entail sickness when neglected.

YOUNG MEN should take these PILLS. They will cure the results of youthful bad habits, and strengthen the system.

YOUNG WOMEN should take them. These PILLS will make them regular.

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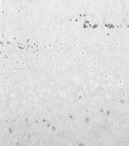

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