

with a burden not yet shaken off, and which is every day more difficult to bear."

What was the opinion of Mr. Stevens, formerly Secretary of State for the Colonies? In his evidence before the House of Commons, in 1828, he uttered sentiments, which I, for one, utterly condemn, and repudiate, but which are indicative of the same sentiment that has prevailed in the minds of many of England's ablest men, from 1783 to the present hour. Mr. Stevens says:—"The ties by which the people are bound to their Sovereign are not of the same strong and enduring character as the corresponding obligations between the King and the people of the old European States. It is impossible to suppose the Canadians dread your power; it is not easy to believe that the abstract duty of loyalty as distinguished from the sentiment of loyalty, *can be very strongly felt. The right of rejecting European dominion has been so often asserted in North and South America, that revolt can scarcely be esteemed in those Continents as criminal or disgraceful.* Neither does it seem to me that the sense of national pride and importance is in your favour."

"It cannot be regarded as an enviable distinction, to remain the only dependent portion of the New World."

Let it be understood, while I state Mr. Stevens' opinions, that I utterly disclaim his morality. Lord Ashburton, too, in a recent debate, utters a corresponding sentiment,—

"As long as they (the Canadians) were content to remain in their present condition, under the protection of this country, it was well that they should so continue;—but if they demand to be separate—to take on themselves a national character—then it appeared to him that it would be the wisest course, the most liberal, and the most consistent with sound policy, to shake hands with them, and let them join the North Americans, if they so thought fit. If the grandeur of England should fade, and her prosperity decay, the greatest monument of glory would remain in her colonies."

Were it necessary, I might multiply citation on citation to prove that England considers, and has for years considered, our present relations to her both burdensome and unprofitable; and if this be true, are we to be unmanly and ungenerous enough to seek to perpetuate that burden? Has she not sought to train us to self-reliance and to fit us for self-govern-