

believe for one that their desires do not run in the direction of entire separation from the parent state, but that they rather look forward to such a ^{modification} of the relations between the dependencies and England, as will give the former larger influence in the Imperial Councils, and at the same time enable the latter to retain that prestige which she has always enjoyed as the governing power of a great Colonial Empire. However this is a question which, in the ordinary course of events Canadians can hardly be called upon to consider from a practical point of view for years to come. Their energies must be directed for sometime towards the consolidation and development of their widely extended provinces.

As a people Canadians have a great deal to be thankful for. Under the protection of Great Britain they have been able to reach a position which may well be envied by many communities of the old world. Those questions which have long kept the countries of Europe in a state of constant agitation do not exist to disturb the tranquillity of the Dominion. No great landlords occupy the largest portion of the territorial domains of Canada, but every man of industrious habits can win for himself a comfortable home, and become a landed proprietor without any of those difficulties of transfer which gladden the hearts of English lawyers. The only land question that ever occupied the attention of Canadian statesmen was the old system of Seigniorial Tenure — a relic of the feudal times of France — but it was soon settled on principles that were fair to both Seignior and tenant. Primogeniture was abolished very many years ago in Canada and property is now generally divided among the children of a family. All respectable and industrious men can exercise the privilege of voting under a franchise which is on the very borders of universal suffrage. No connection exists between Church and State, but all denominations depend on the voluntary contributions of their respective members. Of course Canada must have her difficulties to face in the future. Her statesmen are called upon to legislate for the interests of five million people — soon to double in numbers — inhabiting provinces with diverse interests. They have assumed heavy financial obligations which it will require all the resources of the country to meet without heavily burthening the people. The preservation of peace and order in the vast North West region must require the watchful care of the government for years until railways and settlement bring the whole territory within the limits of civilization. The political agitation which has commenced among a portion of the French Canadian people since the execution of Riel has a