

THE BULLFROG.

*Nec sumit aut ponit aureas,
Arbitrio popularis auro.—Hor.*

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ENGLAND AND B. N. AMERICA.

The position of Canada is just now critical in the extreme, and her connection with England may be said to hang upon a thread. In Canada, as in many other colonies, an idea long prevailed that England was materially strengthened by her outlying dependencies, and that British Colonists—comport themselves how they would—might always rely upon the Imperial treasury for purposes of Colonial defence. Strong in this belief, the Colonists, while profiting largely from the presence of Imperial troops, as also from the sums yearly expended upon Imperial works, lost no opportunity of excluding English manufactures from the Colonial market, and of declaring themselves practically independent of the Mother Country. The time has, we think, arrived when British Americans must shake off the unreasonable idea that they can be bona fide citizens of the British Empire without bearing any appreciable share of the taxation necessary for that Empire's support;—we have too long been content to depend upon England's forbearance; it is now time we should evince some spirit in England's behalf. These Colonies have since the introduction of Responsible Government occupied a false position with regard to the Mother Country. They have asserted their right to have their own will, and have at the same time depended upon England for the means to carry their will into execution. It is morally impossible that such a relation can hold good during times of danger—or of impending danger; indeed, to use the words of Mr. ADDERLEY: "Romantic patronage on one side, and interested attachment on the other, is not friendship, but mutual deception." We do not think that the people of Great Britain are just now disposed to pay any very exorbitant price for their pride, and it remains to be seen whether the people of Canada are disposed to pay a reasonable price for the furtherance of Imperial policy. Without being alarmists we yet think it would be prudent to set our house in order to the best of our ability and means. The Home Government has wisely refused to recognize, in the face of the world, any hostile menace in the recent actions of the Government of the neighbouring Republic, but there is some significance in the fact that an explanation has been demanded on such a question in both Houses of the Imperial Parliament. We can hardly afford to remain idle while the ablest minds of England are so attentively canvassing our affairs. We owe a good deal to the Mother Country, and it rests with the people of British America whether we shall improve our credit or declare ourselves bankrupt. Let us look our position manfully and resolutely in the face. Canada wanted the Maritime Provinces to enter into a Confederation with her, and our statesmen, without having duly sounded public opinion, represented us as willing to do so. The news reached England and was warmly accepted as a proof that Canada, heartily ashamed of her selfish conduct during the Trent affair, was at last willing to do something in her own defence. England's pride was gratified and the Canadians were applauded to the echo;—even the *Times* waxed eloquent upon the subject of Canadian loyalty. But the English public saw only the bright side of the picture. Canada's political troubles were matters about which Englishmen knew nothing and cared nothing. The difficulty of successfully de-

fending the Canadian frontier was duly appreciated, and an Union of the Provinces was regarded in its moral rather than in its political aspect. But with us the case was different. We fancied that the scheme planned at Quebec would never have been planned at all had not Canadian statesmen been at war among themselves, and we feared that any compact hurriedly agreed upon during a political crisis would be productive of unsatisfactory results. Well,—we rejected the Federation scheme, or rather the decisive action of New Brunswick saved us the trouble of declaring for or against it. Let us see how affairs stand now. Canada, whose noble aspirations for the consolidation of British Empire in the West called forth the praises of English statesmen and the English Press,—now hangs back, and Mr. GALT, speaking of defence, declares that unless England is disposed to guarantee all that the Canadian Government demands:—"he is not prepared to say that this million of dollars will be expended on these works." It must, we fancy, be tolerably clear to any unprejudiced person that the consolidation of British Empire in the West was *not* Canada's main object in the matter of Federation. Canada is even now more disposed to remain comparatively defenceless than to undergo taxation for the advantages of British connection, and we maintain that the recent language of the *Times* might be more truthfully applied to the Canadians than to the people of the Maritime Provinces:—"Their holding off can be ascribed to a lurking wish to reserve their decision for the present, and see which way the wind blows. * * * If they will not take the requisite steps now, we cannot expect them to do more in the very hour of approaching conflict." The language of the *Times* throughout the whole of the much discussed article from which we quote is somewhat remarkable. The *Times* would never publish such an article about any section of Englishmen, for by so doing it would weaken its real power, which consists in never speaking dictatorially until after the British public has fully made up its mind. It is only on small social topics that the *Times* aspires to lead English opinion. The Bolgravian Lament, the hardships of needlewomen, the extortion of Hotel keepers, &c., are the sort of questions whereon the *Times* takes the lead; but in dealing with Strikes, Hyde Park riots, &c., the *Times* is perhaps more temperate than any other paper published in London. Of the *Times*' policy regarding Canada there can be no two opinions: it would (in common with many sensible Englishmen) fain be well rid of Canada, and of all British America except Halifax, whose harbour is an admirable sanitarium for the West India fleet. It is not, to our thinking, altogether improbable that such may prove the ultimate fate of B. N. America, and we await with some interest, an answer from the British Government relative to the guarantee stipulated for by Mr. GALT. We think it hardly probable that England will act as Canada desires, and if Canada then refuses to vote a million of dollars for purposes of defence, the regiments now quartered in Canada may possibly enjoy a little home service. But, on the other hand, should Canada accept England's present terms, we shall readily credit Canadians with a desire to sacrifice something for the parent land, and we shall advocate Union to the best of our ability. Whatever may be the action