

CANADIAN EMANCIPATION

AND

COMMERCIAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 1880.

In unfolding to-day the flag of Canadian Emancipation and Commercial Union with the United States, we answer the earnest call of patriotic citizens and business men, all over the land. But a few days ago the Prime Minister of the Federal Government, Sir John A. MacDonald, boldly affirmed, in his celebrated speech delivered at the Ottawa banquet, that, in case of conflict, the interests of Canada should prevail over those of Great Britain. Never before was such an independent sentiment uttered by the leader of a Canadian Government. Sir John had unmistakably announced his views, by going to the polls, at the last general Election, with the popular cry of "Canada for the Canadians". But this last expression of his devotion, to the best interests of the Dominion, sheds a new light on the national policy of his administration.

The protection of home manufactures against British competition, by the imposition of heavy custom-house duties, and the appointment of Sir A. T. Galt, the most prominent independence advocate in Canada, to negotiate commercial treaties with both France and Spain, can leave no possible doubt, in the minds of intelligent observers, that the policy of the present Government is to free themselves, more and more, from the thralldom of the colonial system.

And how can it be otherwise ? How can men, as distinguished as Sir John and his colleagues, submit