

that man is not forsaken of Heaven, and that the future of our race may be better than the past."—*Rochdale, Dec. 4th, 1861.*

Again :

"I see one vast confederation stretching from the frozen north in unbroken line to the glowing south, and from the wild billows of the Atlantic westward to the calmer waters of the Pacific main,—and I see one people, and one language, and one law, and one faith, and, over all that wide continent the home of freedom, and a refuge for the oppressed of every race and every clime."—*Birmingham, Dec. 18th, 1862.*

Is there any Canadian so spiritless as to deny to himself the same right to speak of the destiny of his own country which is enjoyed without question by a member of the English Commons? I am an official and an adviser of the Queen's representative in the Province of Nova Scotia. I am bound to discover all plots and intrigues against the constituted authority and government of the country. If any persons were discovered banding themselves together by secret conspiracy to hand over this country to a foreign power or clandestinely drilling or making preparations for armed effort, it would be my duty, as it would be my solicitude and pride, to bring them instantly to justice. But that is quite another matter from openly exercising the privileges of free speech, and by fair argument and honest reason seeking to convince the judgment of their fellow countrymen.

The especial advocates of the Imperial Federation idea always seek to deprive the subject of the character of a fair debate upon the merits. It is their favorite idea to recall the glories of the British Empire, the pleasant relations which have always existed between the Canadian provinces and the home government, the obligations which we have incurred by accepting for so many years the fostering care and protection of the old flag, and the bonds of fealty by which we are bound to the old land. All these may be admitted. But,

after all, there is a purely practical side to the question. Incidents surround the matter which cannot be ignored. While primarily British subjects and owning a willing allegiance to the Sovereign who rules over the British Empire, the time must necessarily arrive when a given number of millions of people, with a splendid country and separated by some thousands of miles from the cradle of the race, must seriously consider the special interests of their own country. It is idle to talk of Canada and Great Britain as one country. Notwithstanding the political ties which now bind us together, they are essentially two countries, and it may happen to the intelligent recognition of both that a point will be reached when their interests may lie in divergent directions. The problem is this: Here is a mother country great and powerful to-day. From her shores some colonists set sail some day and take possession of a new land of large dimensions. The colony is founded and seeks and freely obtains, from motives of mutual interests and glory, the protection and support of the mother land. The position is recognized fully on both sides. Years pass by and the colony grows and prospers, until at length it assumes national proportions. The relation of colony which sat naturally and becomingly once, becomes not only inconvenient, but almost ridiculous when the efflux of time has developed a puissant nation. The moment comes when, with the kindest feeling, the younger community lays aside the garb of dependence and assumes the becoming robe of independence. Is there anything unnatural, ungrateful or base in this? I confess frankly I cannot so regard it. On the other hand it seems perfectly natural and proper.

Again, in the discussion of this question sentiment is appealed to in the most vehement manner. Upon